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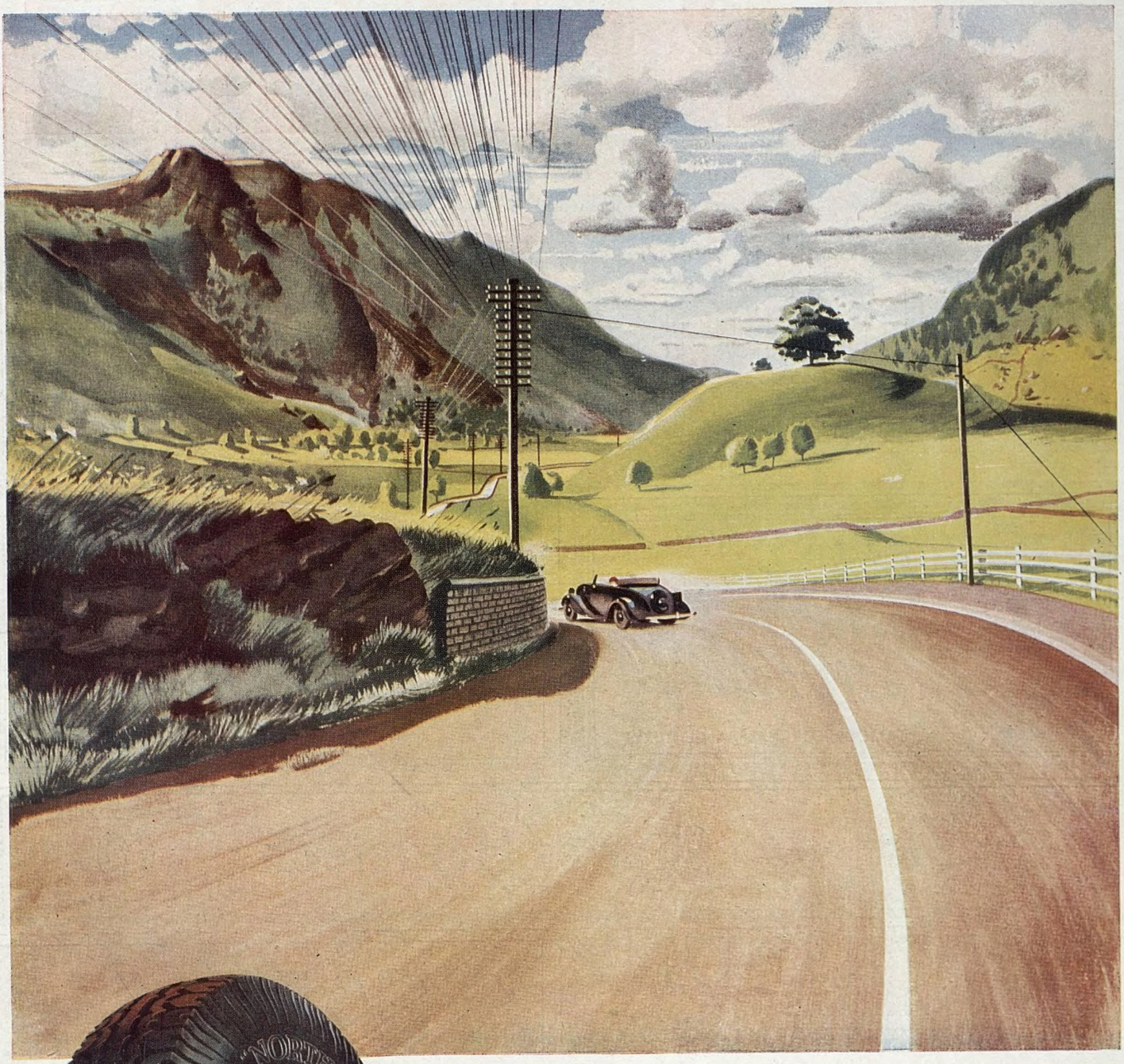

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Volume CXCV No. 2551 The SPHERE, London, December 25, 1948

THE SPHERE

With which is incorporated "THE GRAPHIC"

The Empire's Illustrated Weekly

THE CHRISTENING OF PRINCE CHARLES OF EDINBURGH—THE INFANT SON OF PRINCESS ELIZABETH AND PRINCE PHILIP IN THE HISTORIC CHRISTENING ROBE OF WHITE SILK AND HONITON LACE THAT WAS MADE FOR QUEEN VICTORIA'S CHILDREN : The Royal family group at Buckingham Palace after the christening ceremony, the first photograph of the King to be taken since his illness

Last week Prince Charles of Edinburgh, the infant son of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip, was christened in the flower-banked music room on the fifth floor of Buckingham Palace. The service was conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the baptism took place beside a silver-gilt lily font in which was water from the River Jordan. Princess Margaret, as godmother, took the baby from Nurse Rowe, and in answer to the Archbishop gave his four names, Charles Philip Arthur George. Afterwards Prince Charles was carried into the white drawing-room, where pieces of christening cake and tea were handed round. Throughout the ceremony the baby Prince cried once or twice, but only for a few seconds, and then slept again. (Further pictures relating to the christening will be found on pages 407–09 of this issue)

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A LONDON NEWSLETTER

1, NEW OXFORD STREET, W.C.1.

Christmas.—A happy Christmas to all my readers, to those who send me dewdrops and food parcels and to those who gently or severely trounce me (such Christian charity Christmas calls for!). Shall I send a message of goodwill to my *anonymous* castigators? No, I don't think Christmas calls for a condonation of anonymous scurrility. And, anyway, this year's mail assures a widespread and large, as a hearty, message of goodwill. This, I think, is the twenty-fifth year I have sent a Christmas greeting to readers of the *Newsletter*. I should say that we have had drearier and more austere Christmases than that promised for 1948. In earlier years (between wars) I used often to quote from my favourite carol a hint of hope and better times:

> "The night is past and the dawn at last
> Is coming with orient light."

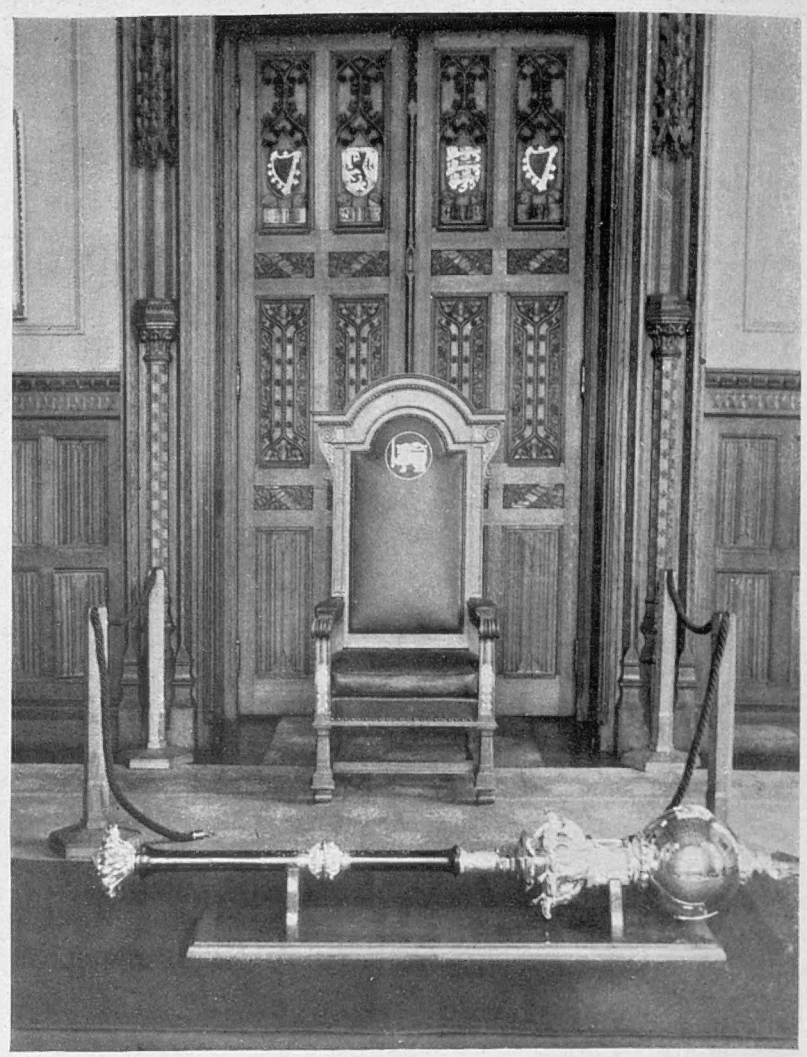
I dropped the tag and some of the optimism in the last war years, and somehow to-day (still to-day) the tag doesn't seem to ring very true. Yet politics and religion unfortunately are two, and perhaps I am cowardly to withhold the trite quotation. Christmas falls in the dark days of the year, came to assure us of hope at last, if not round the corner; came to comfort us with a renewed assurance that all our yesterdays have *not* lighted fools the way to dusty death. These last weeks it has seemed that *everything* is deteriorating from top to bottom, that grace, order, decency, respect, responsibility, morality are perishing from the earth and from this country of ours. Perhaps it is not so. Avid for sensations, we are fed only on sensations. Perhaps, hid from us, the sun climbs slowly. Perhaps westward, behind the fog, the land is growing bright.

Prince Charles.—The new Prince, who may one day be King, will be known, in youth at any rate, as Prince Charles, unless some other name fasten on him in his family circle, and spread more widely. The Duke of Windsor was Prince Eddie to the millions, but David to his family. It does not follow that, if he should ascend the throne, the new Prince will be King Charles III, though I hope for posterity's sake it may be so, since it gives a hint of *merriment* (albeit the Plague, the Dutch and the Great Fire were not remarkably merry events). His grandfather, our present King, was Bertie to his family, Prince Albert to the millions and George VI, our King. And George is retained among the new Prince's names, but Albert is dropped, and Queen Victoria's rule that all male descendants of herself and the Prince Consort should bear his beloved name. The name Charles may have been "borrowed" from King Haakon, Philip certainly from the baby's father, Arthur, originally, at any rate, from the first Duke of Wellington, and George from a line of Hanoverian kings and their Windsor successors. Is it well with the child? It is well. May he grow up in an England growing merry again and noble, and may he leave this world, many, many decades hence, a happier place than he found it. Certainly no Prince was ever born in England in so long, so admirable a tradition of service and kingly virtues, spread over more than a century. There is nothing wrong with England at the top. The trouble is that we ask a higher standard of integrity and behaviour from our Royal House than we are prepared to follow ourselves.

A Sordid Inquisition.—The dingy inquisition at Church House draws to a close. It has held the nation's attention, as a rat hunt in a sewer will rivet the eyes of urchins. In a week or so perhaps the findings will be published, the sheep separated from the goats, and the guilty, if any, branded. And then the ban will be lifted on commentary in the Press and on the platform, and (no doubt at all) pent-up feelings will burst in a torrent. For the shock and disgust which this Inquiry has engendered are derived rather from the realisation of the state of national morality, of the existence of a new underworld, which under State control has promptly taken the place of a much smaller underworld which existed under capitalism and "freedom," than against any individual, public or private, whose conduct has been called in question. *Who will show us any good?* We have learned with a shock just how low we have fallen, just how far we have travelled away from the standards of probity in public life and business life which were maintained in the Victorian Age. Always there were black sheep and always there will be. Let no one suggest that the decline is something new or post-war or even post-wars. It began much further back; it had a great impetus in the Edwardian Age. It is not a *party* weapon. The decline in the standards of conduct in public and political life is clearly visible before the First World War. Those who seek party capital in branding the Socialists as unfit to govern, must recall that Liberals (and high-placed at that) were among the pioneers in a lower degree of integrity in public life and that the last instance (before the present Inquiry sat) concerned a Conservative Minister.

The Need of Restraint.—It is in part for that reason that I hope that the Conservatives and Liberals will comment as little as possible, and with restraint, on this Church House business. If dirty linen is to be washed, let it be washed in Fleet Street. It can be sure of a good airing there. The good name of the Mother of Parliaments is still a valuable asset, still an example all the world over, still a matter for envy and imitation. Her faults and failings have, on the whole, been venial, not venal, and they have rarely been hushed up. The very fact that authority has turned the fullest searchlight on them is proof that we hold her good name dear. And restraint in criticism by the older parties in the House and on political platforms will be more than wisdom and more than justice. It will be patriotism. It may well restore a little of that national unity so much desired to-day in Parliament and in every sphere of national life. I am quite sure that Mr. Attlee's Government has learned lessons from Church House which will correct truculence and over-confidence and *hubris* in some of his Ministers, whatever may be the findings and the acquittals. Discipline and humility are the first attributes of greatness, and those who have tried their hands at governing in the last half-century have every reason to practise both virtues.

Words, Words!—The General Assembly has adjourned after three months of what even *The Times* dismissed as futile and acrimonious discussion. It has failed utterly and contemptibly. The only reason for keeping it in being is that "in a more reasonable world it might play a part as a sounding-board of world opinion." It was launched (is it possible?) only three years ago at San Francisco, full of high hope. It has "mouldered" hotter and lower ever since, a sounding-board indeed, but full only of sound and fury, signifying almost nothing. It requires a deal of pleading to "justify" the late Paris Session. Of its *vital* agenda it settled nothing; it passed the baby where it could, kept the issues in pickle where it could. Palestine was left to the disputants to sort out; Korea, the Balkans, atomic energy were passed back to Commissions with a pious hope that they would yet sort something out. The trumpet was blown for the conclusion of an "anti-genocide" convention and a bill of human rights. I doubt if San Francisco had such triumphs in mind. Let us not deny the tremendous efforts of good men and true, of Dr. Evatt and M. Lie, and of our own representative, who set the pattern of restraint and terseness. Such men strove in vain. They were caught like Laocoon in the coils. The G.A. is too big, the delegates often too remote from the issues. Its work must be curtailed, its debates rationed in tune and restricted in irrelevance. If next April's session is not to be its last, it must spend the first weeks of it (as usual) in discussing procedure, but this time the discussion must result in a radical reform. No major question will ever be settled until the fifty delegate nations elect a small executive committee to represent them, and see to it that the work of that practical committee cannot be sabotaged by a single Power. Words, words! That is the charge against the General Assembly. But it is also a just charge against the nostrums of the Press. For what can liquidate the veto that will sabotage the liquidation of the veto? The high hope of humanity is mouldering and Russia has driven the Western Nations to fall back on regional pacts, an ancillary which San Francisco prophetically wrote into its Charter. But there were few to prophesy three years ago that the U.N., like war, would "settle nothing" and would broadcast legacies of jealousy, hatred and suspicion. The nations of the world, debased by war, are no longer worthy of the sweets of civilisation. They who use the sword perish by the sword, and the innocent must suffer with the guilty. That is the "vicious circle."

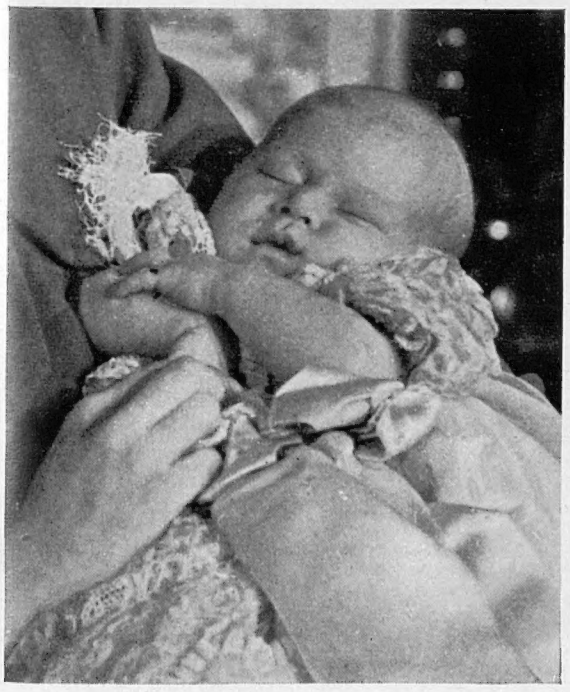


FROM THE MOTHER OF PARLIAMENTS—THE BRITISH GIFT TO THE PARLIAMENT OF CEYLON: A SILVER MACE INLAID WITH GOLD AND GEMS, AND A SPEAKER'S CHAIR OF ENGLISH OAK SURMOUNTED BY THE GOLDEN LION OF CEYLON. They were displayed recently at the Speaker's House in the Houses of Parliament before despatch to the youngest Dominion. Both mace and chair were made in London. Sinhalese emblems and architectural motifs have been skilfully blended into the traditional design of the mace

The Provost.—Our world grows yearly more strident, drab and shocking. Graceful living is rare. There are very few harbours of refuge remaining. A few college headships, a few librarianships and museum curatorships still provide sanctuary against iconoclasm and surcease from sound and fury, with constructive and useful work; above all, work that is a hobby—for the lucky few. Of such havens is the Provostship of Eton. The setting is enchanting. Within, those matchless "leaving portraits"; without, mellow brickwork, sweet gardens, the lovely river and the view of Windsor, and, round and about, the activities of a thousand boys whose shaping into leaders and good citizens must ever be the supreme concern of Provost, headmaster, housemaster and staff. Great traditions, great opportunities, great responsibilities, and a job the supreme importance of which no sane man can question. Usually, perhaps, the Provosts of Eton have been chosen from the staff, ex-headmasters or tutors. Sometimes a statesman has deemed the world of politics well lost for the Provost's Lodging at Eton or the headship of a college, and many a business man has envied such a last decade after a career in the City. Henry Marten passed the whole of his active life—more than fifty years—at Eton and never found its interests grow less. His was a most lovable character. His enthusiasm for knowledge was boundless and lasted his life. He communicated it to thousands of boys, for he had the rare gift of teaching. He "enjoyed" that absence of mind which attends many research workers, for his mind was no one-way street. It was fun to go out shooting with him, and sometimes difficult to keep pace with his changes of direction and forward spurts, mental and physical. He was never hidebound; indeed, he was sometimes a pioneer and always elastic and tolerant. A delightful companion for anyone, young or old, who enjoys rambling in the byways of knowledge. He lived well beyond man's allotted span and (one would judge) must have had a very happy life at Eton. For in truth, Eton, steeped in tradition (and in some quarters suspect on that account), is a singularly live force in the modern world.

THE OLD STAGER

HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY AND HER FIRST GREAT-GRANDCHILD : The baby Prince, who slept throughout the greater part of the christening ceremony, wearing the historic christening robes of white silk and Honiton lace which Queen Mary lent to Princess Elizabeth for the occasion. They were first used by Queen Victoria's children

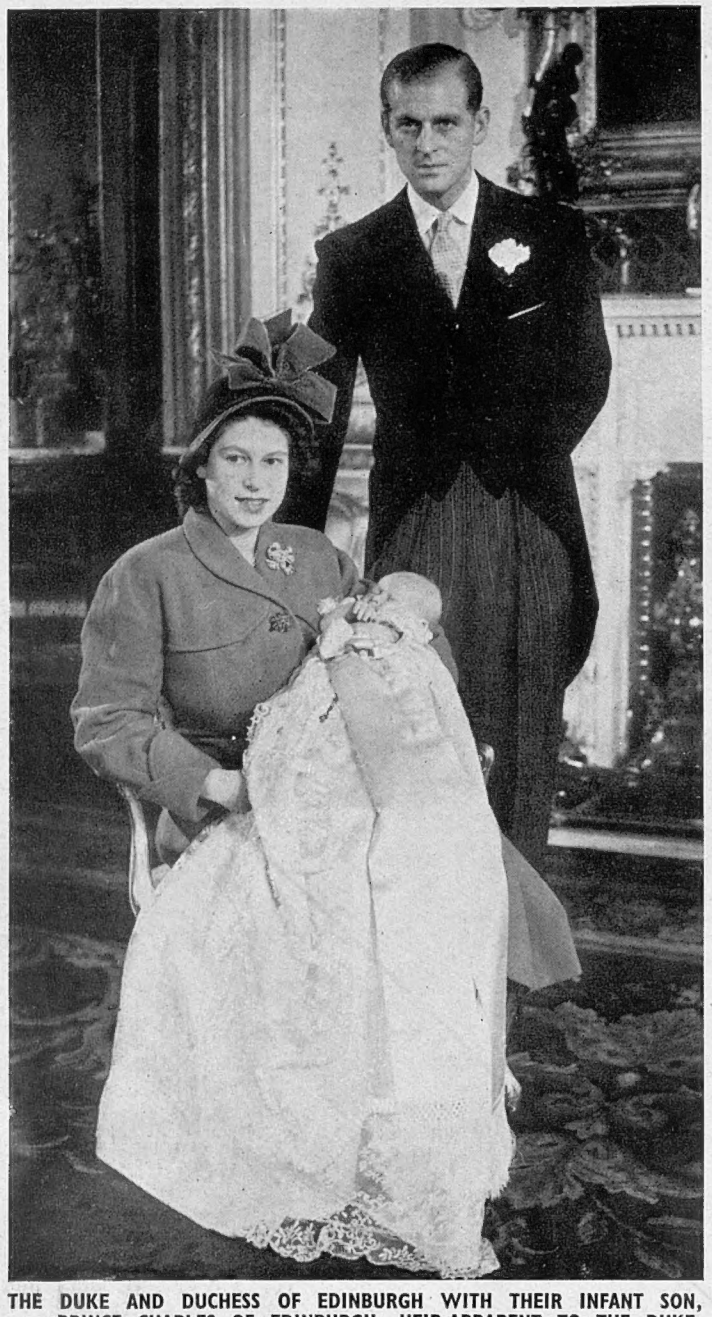


On left and right — **BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE : Two close-ups of the Prince taken in the arms of his mother. Until the christening, his name was kept a closely-guarded secret**

PRINCE CHARLES MAKES HIS BOW

Queen Mary with the Newly Christened Prince

PRINCE CHARLES and HIS SPONSORS



THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF EDINBURGH WITH THEIR INFANT SON, PRINCE CHARLES OF EDINBURGH, HEIR-APPARENT TO THE DUKEDOM AND SECOND IN LINE OF SUCCESSION TO THE THRONE: On the morning of the christening the Prince was registered and issued with a ration-book and identity card No. MAGH 492

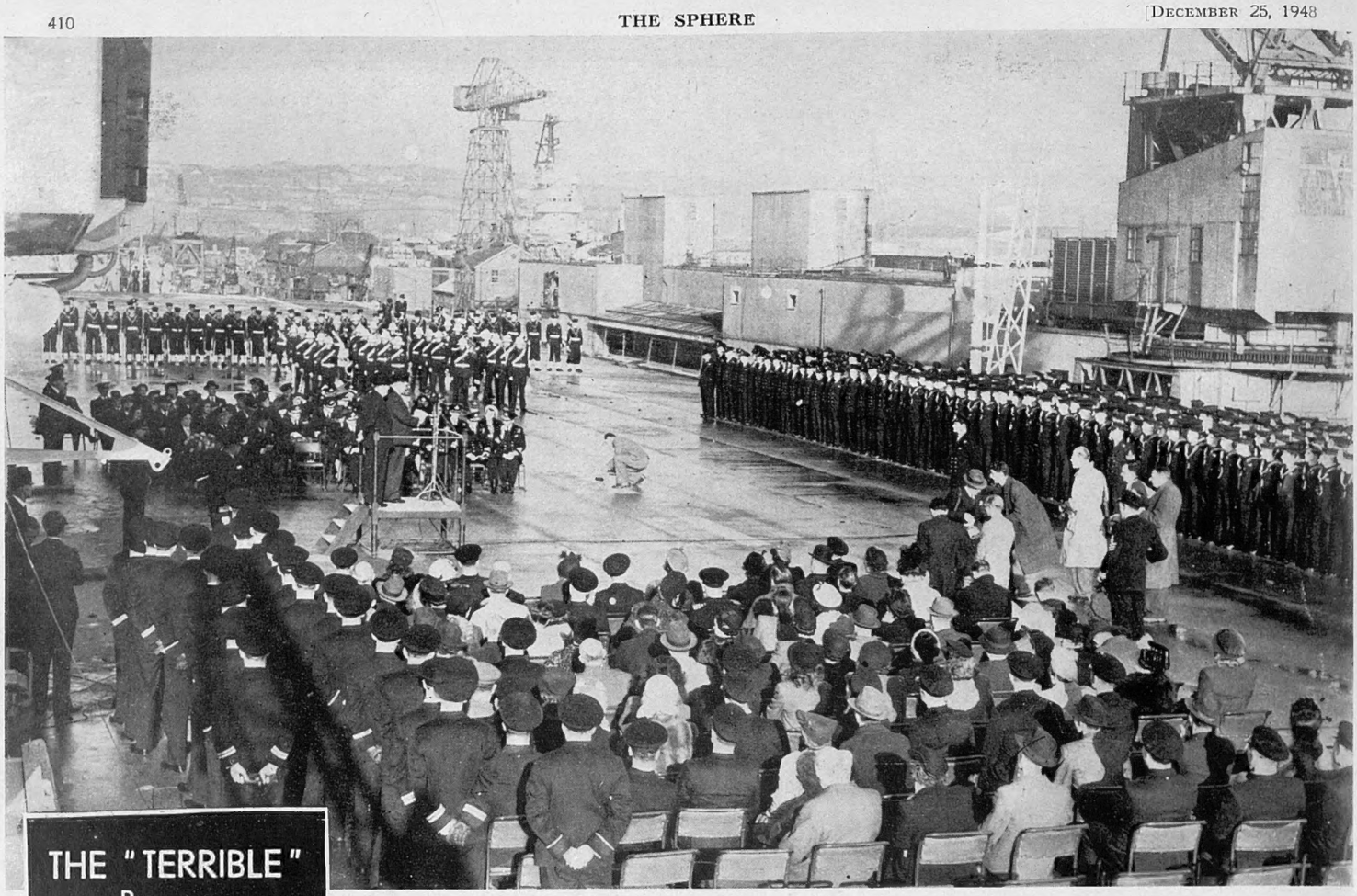
THE BABY PRINCE AND HIS GRANDMOTHER: Prince Charles of Edinburgh in the arms of the Queen after the christening ceremony

THE CHRISTENING GROUP—PRINCE CHARLES OF EDINBURGH WITH MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL Milford Haven. In the second row on the King's right hand are Prince Philip and Lady Hon. David Bowes-Lyon, brother of Queen Elizabeth, and the Earl of Athlone, brother of

FAMILY AND THE SPONSORS: Princess Elizabeth sits with her infant son and with his two great-grandmothers, Queen Mary and the Dowager Marchioness of Brabourne, one of the sponsors. Lady Brabourne is the elder daughter of Earl Mountbatten and a cousin of the Prince. On the King's left hand are the Queen Mary. The Hon. David Bowes-Lyon was a sponsor, and the Earl of Athlone represented King Haakon. Princess Margaret, who is on the right, was another sponsor

THE "TERRIBLE" Becomes THE "SYDNEY"

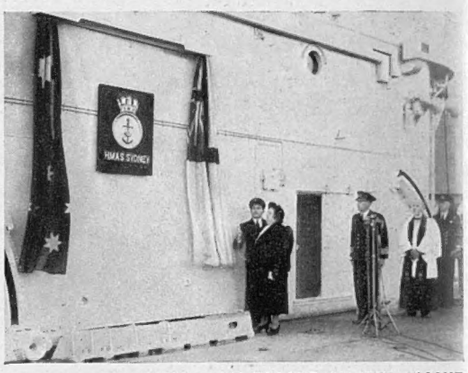
The Royal Australian Navy Takes Over a Light Aircraft-Carrier



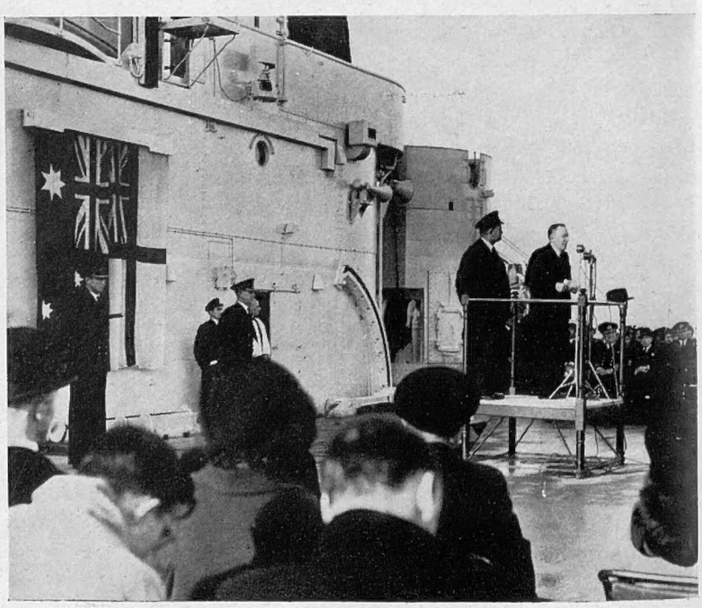
ON THE FLIGHT DECK OF AUSTRALIA'S FIRST AIRCRAFT-CARRIER : This was the scene on board H.M.S. "Terrible" as she was handed over to the Royal Australian Navy, taking the name of H.M.A.S. "Sydney." She was received by Mr. Beasley, the Australian High Commissioner, and renamed by Mrs. Beasley. The new carrier has a displacement of about 14,000 tons, and is a sister-ship of "Hercules." "Leviathan" and "Powerful." She was laid down in 1943

AIRCRAFT FLY IN FORMATION ABOVE DEVONPORT DOCKYARD AS H.M.S. "TERRIBLE" JOINS THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY AS H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" : Mr. Beasley, the Australian High Commissioner, is seen on right as he made his inaugural speech. Standing beside him is Lord Hall, the First Lord of the Admiralty, who referred in his speech to the growing strength of the Australian naval force, fast becoming a permanent and well-balanced fleet in Far Eastern waters

As the *Terrible* was about to become the *Sydney* reports were current in Devonport of sabotage in the engine-room of the new 14,000-ton carrier, and it appears that on the eve of the transfer there was a hitch in the starboard engine when the turbines were turned over. Divers were sent down to see if the propeller had fouled, but they found nothing wrong. After an inspection plate had been removed it was found that part of a cog had been sheared off, and when the gearbox was opened six steel bolts, one 4½ ins. long, were taken out of the sump. It was stated that the damage would not hold up the ship.



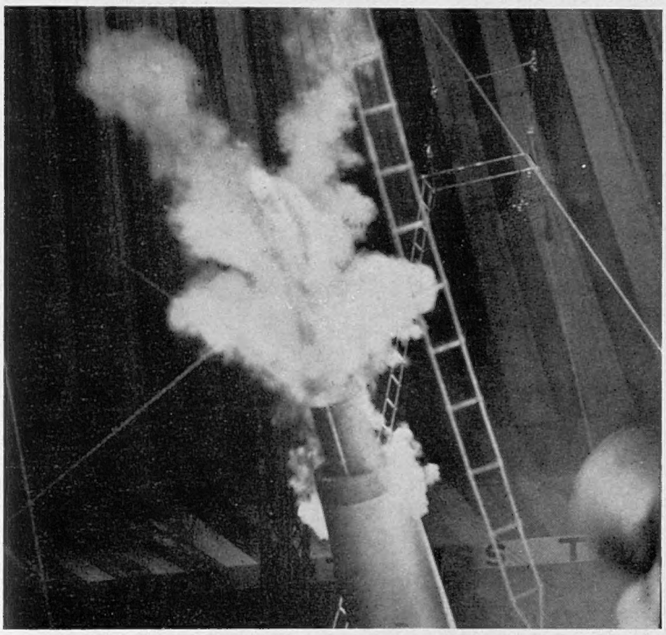
MRS. BEASLEY UNVEILS THE PLAQUE ON THE FLIGHT DECK OF H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" : The wife of the Australian High Commissioner at the renaming of the carrier at Devonport. To reveal the plaque the Australian flag and the White Ensign were drawn aside



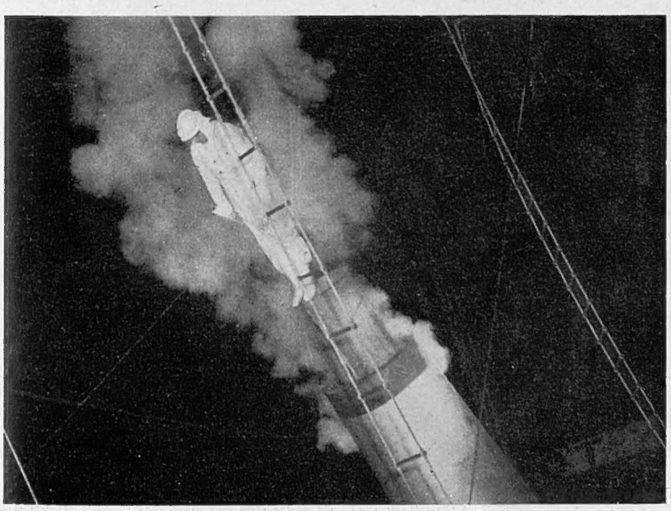
"THE GREAT MAGYARS" PROVIDE A THRILL AT OLYMPIA: The world-renowned springboard team were caught in mid-air by the high-speed camera. London has two great circuses again this year—the Bertram Mills Circus at Olympia and Tom Arnold's Circus at Harringay. Between them they can seat over 16,000 at each performance. There are, also, two circuses in Manchester and one in Birmingham, Glasgow, Blackpool, Edinburgh and Belfast. All the traditional fare is provided, from performing elephants and chimpanzees (pictures of Knie's Chimpanzees appear on page 433 of this issue) to stunt acts and clowns

UNDER the BIG TOP

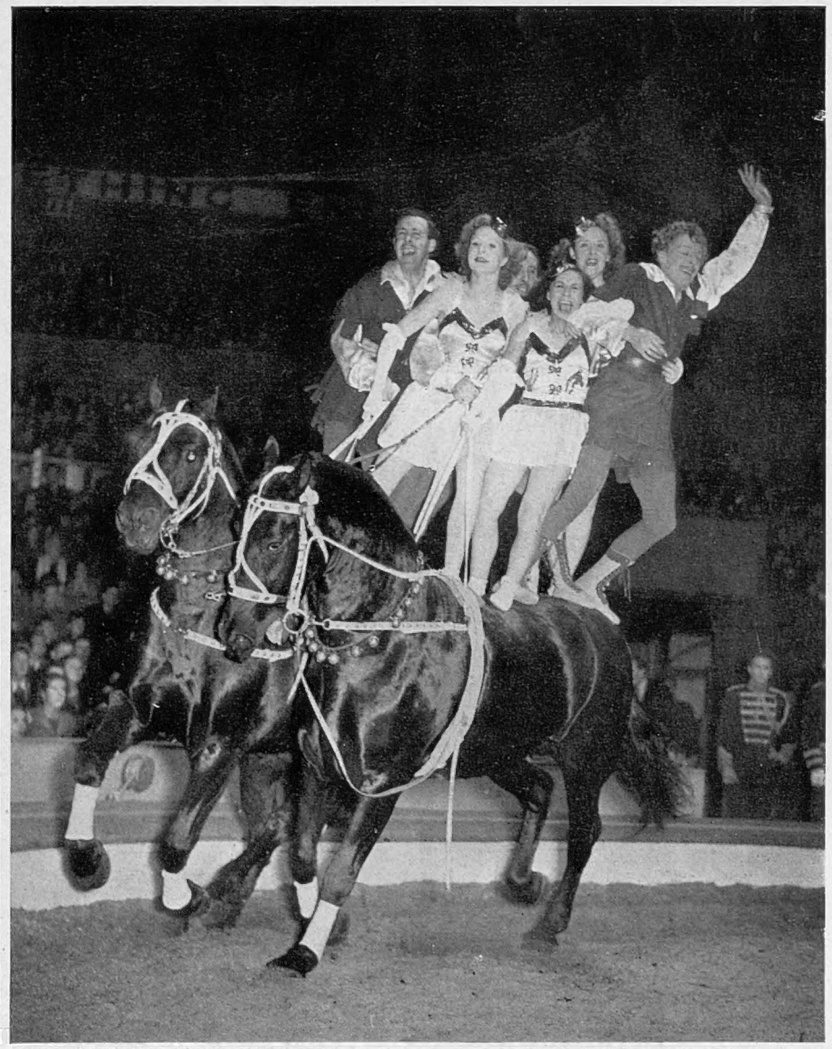
Some of the Acts which are Thrilling this Year's Visitors to the Olympia Circus



LEONI IN THE CANNON'S MOUTH: The Swedish acrobat can just be distinguished in the smoke as the cannon is fired. He is projected across the arena at Olympia, and falls into a net at the other side



A SECOND LATER: The smoke begins to clear and the figure of Leoni is plainly seen as he leaves the cannon's mouth. Harringay was to have had a similar act, but they were unable to get the cannon into the arena. Leoni is projected a distance of seventy feet



ENTER THE CUMBERLANDS: The popular riding act canter round the sawdust ring at Olympia. Equine acts are always very popular and this year there are twelve chestnut "Liberty" horses and "High-School" horses, and another Swedish troupe, Lasse's horses and ponies, who are appearing for the first time in this country

IS RUSSIA PREPARING A GOLD SURPRISE?

Some Thoughts on Her Highly Secret Mining Industry

By FERDINAND TUOHY

AMONG the assets of the men in the Kremlin is their ability to take other people unawares. On occasion their best and long-prepared schemes will miscarry. That they have scored before now with surprise strokes which have put the Western World off balance, is equally certain.

The latest case in point hinges on the sudden Red onrush in China. When a South American diplomat in London gave it as his opinion that the spectacular front shown by the Soviet in Berlin has all along been a blind designed to take their opponents' thoughts off China and the Far East generally, he may have come nearer to hitting the mark than it is comfortable to contemplate.

Experience in the short post-war period teaches that it is rash to dismiss over-lightly deductions or even guesses which may appear to border on the fantastic—such a "hunch," for example, as that Moscow is building up a gold reserve capable not only of meeting the monetary requirements of its satellite empire in process of expansion within and without (and this goes for Red China, too, very much so), but of challenging eventually the citadel of gold itself, Wall Street.

At any rate, the "hunch" comes from those best qualified to judge in the matter, the Americans. They admit that their findings are founded upon calculations which could err considerably, for in no sphere is Soviet secrecy more profound. There was evidence of this earlier this year when new and greatly tightened up Defence of the State laws were promulgated in Moscow. High up among them was a paragraph bearing on gold and treasure.

Anyone revealing the location or movement of bullion, coin or treasure faced a sentence of from eight to twenty years' imprisonment. Members of the armed forces would receive the heaviest sentences, and, after them, State officials. A final clause was on the enigmatic side. It stated that these sentences did not refer to cases where treason had been proved. As the Soviet Union boasted this year that it had done away with the death penalty, one can only surmise what the ultimate punishment now consists of.

Foreign calculations of Russia's gold holdings must needs rely, in part, on such matters as the performance of mining machinery delivered to that country! A largely hypothetical yield has to be taken into account when drawing up tables of gold statistics for the whole world. The last report that I have managed to trace bears on the beginning of 1947; yet if figures have altered in an upward direction since then, that will not change the picture as a whole nor dim its lesson.

The world's stock of monetary gold then totalled 1,076,000,000 ounces. The tables included the gold held in central banks and treasuries of various countries which amounted to 828,000,000 ounces. Herein figured the 586,000,000 ounces held by the United States, whose value at the world price was £5,164,000,000.

It will be seen that there was a balance of 248,000,000 ounces unaccounted for, and this was believed to be held by a group, not detailed, which comprised Russia and other countries, treasury stocks not disclosed, and "Western hoards." The value of this gold was approximately £2,185,000,000, and it was thought that the Soviet Union possessed at least £500,000,000 of it. But here again—who knew? A balance of £1,685,000,000 was still unaccounted for. How much of that, too, might be in Soviet hands?

A Russian reserve of £500,000,000 doesn't sound great shakes when taken beside the Fort Knox treasure of more than £5,000,000,000—admitted. Even if the former were doubled from the "unaccounted for" source, the Kremlin's gold holding would still be away behind. But now is where we take off for the most impenetrable area of all, the Russian goldfields close to the Arctic Circle in north-eastern Siberia.

We know that the supposed richest gold-bearing area in the world, the Transvaal, oscillates just above an annual value yield of £100,000,000. The word "supposed" is new but justified, because the yield of the very rich goldfields in the basin of Siberia's Kolyma River is a closed book to the rest of mankind. No "gold rushes" in that direction! If there were, what a desolation would the world's adventurers come upon. . . .

The country is broken up by mountain ranges: elsewhere the landscape consists of vast expanses of swamp, dwarf forest—large trees cannot grow because of the sub-soil ice—and moss tundra. The rivers are icebound for eight to nine months of the year.

The native inhabitants are made up of a few thousand members of primitive tribes who subsist by hunting, fishing and reindeer-keeping. Up to rather more than twenty years ago there were no Russians beyond a handful of traders and officials. A census in 1927 of the whole Kolyma region showed the population to number just under 8,000.

That was the Kolyma year—1927—even as the Sacramento and the Yukon had their years, forever memorable, Australia (in default of a river) her Kalgoorlie Desert, and South Africa the Rand.

There was the bare shadow of a "rush" to Kolyma in 1927, but strictly limited to Soviet citizens. The "New Economic Policy" was still in force, and private prospectors were encouraged to go and make what they could, on the understanding that they parted with all gold at a fixed price to a State trust. This private enterprise was suffered to endure for five years, and when it was stopped, Marxism-Leninism had nothing to do with it. The Soviet Government simply wanted more gold more quickly, and they had an idea.

It was out of the question to cart free labour up to that God-forsaken part of the world. Not only was the demand for it too great in much more favoured areas of the Union; the Government couldn't spare the capital and wasn't prepared to pay the cost because it knew of an easier way. Why not locate "corrective labour camps" up in the Kolyma basin, whose inmates could work the goldfields under all supervision—or know the consequences?

This is not another fable of the Big Bad Wolf. Russia's gold mining is executed under the M.V.D. police organisation—the same that supervises kidnappings in Berlin and Vienna. Back in 1932 it was called the G.P.U., and a special department was set up to squeeze the last ounce out of those undergoing correction in the camps. Given the name of Dalstroy, this department had supreme authority over most of north-eastern Siberia, and, as far as is known, still has, superseding all local branches of the civil administration.

The administrative boundaries of Dalstroy are apt to vary. Not long ago they were extended east of the Kolyma along the coast of the Arctic Ocean. Boundaries depend on the working of newly-discovered deposits. The entire area at present covered by Dalstroy is said to be rather more than ten times that of Britain, and the population somewhere round the half-million mark. This is deduced from what is known of the number and scale of the goldfields and ancillary enterprises.

In 1940 there were nearly seventy goldfields grouped under seven administrative agencies, each field employing many thousands of workers. What the number has swelled to since Kolyma passed out of normal ken is one of the top secrets of the cold war, on the Soviet side.

"On the basis of the evidence which exists (wrote a correspondent of the *Economist* this summer), it has been estimated that the Russian output has been multiplied between four and six times since 1930, and is now nearly half of the total gold production of the world."

It is surely against such an assessment, rather than the total gold holding which the Russians have acquired of the "missing" world ounces valued approximately £2,185,000,000, that the "hunch" referred to early on is best judged.

Nor is the theory that Russia may be building up a huge gold reserve with which to challenge the "capitalist" countries in their own special line invalidated by the lengths to which Soviet agencies are going in order to scrape up gold and hard currencies wherever and by any means they can. It has been found, for example, that by secretly acquiring and selling the new Western German Deutsche mark, the Russians are able to transfer credits at the rate of £3,000,000 or more annually to the United States without going through regular banking channels.

This scooping up of hard currency has been done by an organisation camouflaged as a Purchasing Commission. Its intake may not amount to much, but everything appears to help—even the dollars and Swiss and Belgian francs which alone are acceptable at those Visitors' Restaurants in the Russian Zone whose Lucullan feasts are said to be a sight for rationed eyes.

Again, the Russians have used their favourable trade balance in the United States—over £12,000,000 in the first eight months of this year—to purchase large amounts of sterling in New York, from security houses holding sterling in transferable accounts in London. The price of sterling in these transactions is about 20 per cent. below the official rate of exchange. In addition, the Soviets are said to have gained nearly £25,000,000-worth of sterling through their favourable trade balance with Britain.

And the Americans are completely puzzled as to why the Russians should push their sales to the United States to the extent of increased exports of manganese and chrome ore, which America is stockpiling against a war emergency.

Yet there may be a ready enough explanation of all this Soviet scraping for gold values outside the Union. Much of what is collected goes, of course, to meet the cost of imports. But there is another bill, too, that has to be met: that for sustaining the World Revolution. Alone French and Italian Communists draw millions of pounds annually from Moscow.

THE CASE OF WHITTAKER CHAMBERS TAKES A NEW TURN: Chambers, ex-senior editor of the magazine "Time," leaving the Federal Courthouse in New York, where he has been testifying before a Federal Grand Jury investigating subversive activities: Last August Chambers told the Washington investigators that he had renounced Communism at the time of the Hitler-Stalin pact. He took the opportunity of denouncing Alger Hiss, a former high official of the State Department in Washington, as a Communist. Hiss denied every accusation and filed a £15,000 slander suit against Chambers. Chambers has now retaliated with a mass of evidence, some of it taken from a giant pumpkin on his farm, where he had placed microfilm for safe keeping. The microfilm yielded a vast pile of photostatic copies of confidential military and State Department despatches. As a result Hiss has been called in for extensive questioning

CHANGE OF FRONT: Count Heinrich von Eisiendel, editor of the Russian-licensed "Taglische Rundshau" in Berlin, has left his job and re-emerged in the Western Sectors of the city, but, at the time of writing, has not explained why he made the move. The Count is a grandson of Germany's "Iron Chancellor," Otto von Bismarck. He was arrested a short while ago and imprisoned for three months for being in possession of forged papers

MR. DALTON AND MR. WOLFSON BEFORE THE TRIBUNAL

The Closing Stages of the Inquiry

MR. JUSTICE LYNSKEY LEAVES CHURCH HOUSE FOR HIS HAMPSTEAD HOME AFTER ONE OF MANY ARDUOUS DAYS AT THE TRIBUNAL: It was his task to control a court that was often inclined towards levity, but his reproofs to the public gallery were fully equal to the occasion. Throughout the hearing Mr. Justice Lynskey kept witnesses to the point with admirable firmness, and more than once explained knotty points of evidence with lucidity, notably in his explanation of Stanley's transactions with the G.R.A.

THE 54TH WITNESS, MR. HUGH DALTON, CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER AND FORMER CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: Mr. Dalton leaving Church House after giving evidence (at his own request). He declared he was not on first-name terms with Mr. Stanley. Most of the evidence concerned the alleged offer of a directorship in the Great Universal Stores

MR. ISAAC WOLFSON, OF PORTLAND PLACE, THE 55TH WITNESS BEFORE THE TRIBUNAL: Mr. Wolfson took the oath wearing his hat. He "spoke with a pronounced Scottish accent." He described himself as an industrialist, and as managing director of Great Universal Stores. Questioned by his own counsel, Mr. Wolfson said that distinguished people from all over the world came to see how his organisation was run. He added, amid laughter, "It is the ark of free enterprise." Mr. Wolfson was questioned at length regarding payments to Stanley amounting to £1,000, and at the conclusion of evidence the chairman of the Tribunal said that he would like the Treasury solicitor to have an opportunity of inspecting certain book entries in relation to these payments

ONE OF THE LAST WITNESSES: Mr. Gordon Shiner, the general manager of Intrade Limited, civil engineers, who gave evidence of his friendly relationship with Mr. Charles Key, Minister of Works. It was stated that anonymous letters had been sent to the Board of Trade declaring that Intrade had received special consideration

SHOPPING FOR CHRISTMAS IN ONE OF LONDON'S MOST FAMOUS MARKETS: The great crowd, which thronged Petticoat Lane on a Sunday before Christmas, included many shoppers out to pick up bargains for Christmas presents. Although Petticoat Lane has been renamed Middlesex Street, it retains its old title by common usage and many Londoners do not know its official name. The stallholders, with their low overhead expenses, can afford to take a small profit, and many people who would not have considered buying there in more prosperous days have visited the famous East End market this year

A PRE-CHRISTMAS SIGHT IN LONDON

Petticoat Lane and its Thousands of Sunday Morning Shoppers

That the great post-war spending spree is ended has been evident for some months and signs that this Christmas was to be an austerity one was evinced by factors other than rations. Shops showed decreases of between 10 and 15 per cent. in Christmas sales compared with 1947 figures, and the lower-priced goods were those that attracted the customers. In these circumstances it was obvious that the crowds at popular markets, such as Petticoat Lane, would be augmented by many buyers who would normally do their Christmas shopping in more luxurious, if no less crowded, surroundings. Petticoat Lane had much to offer; its stalls were abundant with varied goods—silk stockings, trinkets, cheap perfumes were popular for gifts but there were also more everyday commodities—clothing, kitchen ware, rugs and accessories for the home.

Below—**"SHALES CHOC ICES 4d." : The sign in the centre of this picture indicates that the Londoner's taste for ice-cream is not seasonal and that the stallholder was aware that there would be many children among the pre-Christmas crowds**

ANYTHING FROM A WHITE MOUSE TO A WHITE ELEPHANT : Another view of the Petticoat Lane market, which shows the variety of goods to be obtained there. On the left side can be seen some of the clothes stalls, while in the right foreground is a whelk stand, ever popular refreshment for the East Ender

A CHEERFUL LONDON CROWD : The visitor can get a good deal of amusement both from the varied stalls and from the varied cries of the vendors. In the small section of this photograph shoes, leather goods, scarves and mats are displayed

Foreign News in Pictures

THE UNITED NATIONS BID GOOD-BYE TO PARIS

Mid-Pacific Rescue; King Abdullah and the Palestinian Crown; The U.S. Marines in Tsingtao

THE GUESTS DEPART AND THE UNITED NATIONS CLOSES ITS SESSION IN FRANCE: The guard of honour lined up at the entrance to the Élysée Palace as delegates of the United Nations left after attending a farewell reception given by M. Vincent Auriol, President of the French Republic, following the final session of the Assembly at the Palais de Chaillot. The Assembly broke up with many items on the agenda in abeyance, and in particular it had no cause for pride over the handling of the Palestine *affaire*, or, indeed, any other issue that had come before it

DR. HERBERT EVATT EXPRESSES THE THANKS OF THE UNITED NATIONS: The Assembly President, and delegate from Australia, addressing President Vincent Auriol at the farewell session) to U.N. delegates at the Élysée Palace. Dr. Evatt referred to France's great generosity in preparing the Palais de Chaillot for the use of the Assembly

A CRASH-LANDING IN MID-PACIFIC: This B 29 of the United States Air Force, which was searching for the survivors of a wrecked C 54, got into difficulties near Fais Island, 480 miles south of Saipan, and the pilot was forced to pancake on to the beach. It was some days before the B 29 was spotted by another searching plane

A HELPING HAND FROM THE ISLANDERS: In the outrigger in the foreground, natives of Fais Island paddled the crew of the B 29 wrecked on their palm-fringed shore out to the rescue seaplane sent by the American Air Force. The crew were safely got aboard the P.B.M. Mariner, and with the aid of J.A.T.O. (jet assisted take-off mechanism) the ascent was accomplished without incident. The Mariner brought the rescued flyers to Saipan in three hours—a distance of 480 miles. This is one of a number of Pacific rescues lately carried out by the U.S. Air Force, the most notable being that of the C 54 which was forced down at the beginning of December with thirty-three men on board

THE TIME OF PEACE AND GOODWILL IN THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA: Looking east on Broad Street from the corner of Main Street after the Christmas illuminations had been inaugurated. The illuminations covered seven miles of city streets, and have been rivalled by those of several other towns in the Eastern States, notably Savage, Maryland, where there are not only special lighting effects, but Christmas music has been broadcast in the streets and there is a reindeer park at the entrance to the town. Savage is a toy-manufacturing town, and regards its display as good propaganda for Christmas trade

THE UNITED STATES MARINES IN TSINGTAO: A detachment marching on the outskirts of the seaport city where it has been their special task to safeguard American lives and property as the Communists have swept southward from the Great Wall

THE KING WHO IS SAID TO HAVE SACRIFICED ARAB UNITY FOR HIS OWN AMBITIONS: King Abdullah of Transjordan (left centre) standing in the courtyard of his palace at Amman to hear Sheikh Gaabary (right), who brought to Amman the dramatic resolution of the Jericho Arab Congress

SHEIKH GAABARY RECEIVES THE MANDATE OF THE OPEN-AIR COUNCIL OF PALESTINE ARABS AT JERICHO: The Sheikh, with a portrait of King Abdullah on the table before him, is reading the text of the resolution which called upon him to go to Amman and ask King Abdullah if he would be willing to accept the rulership of the United Kingdoms of Palestine and Transjordan. Later the resolution came before both Houses of the Transjordan Parliament at Amman, and the unification of the kingdoms was approved unanimously. The Egyptian Press has accused Great Britain of complicity in the Jericho Conference

DON BRADMAN GOES OUT TO BAT IN HIS LAST BIG MATCH: The Australian star, who now retires from the game for good, being cheered on by supporters as he strode from the pavilion at Melbourne to appear in the Bradman Testimonial Match. There was a crowd of 53,000 on the ground, and they saw the master in action against the pace bowling of Lindwall. Bradman scored 123 runs, playing Lindwall with consummate ease

THE YOUNG PRETENDER TO THE "THRONE" OF SARAWAK RECEIVES A DELEGATION IN "EXILE": Anthony Brooke (centre), nephew of Sir Charles Vyner Brooke, last white Rajah of Sarawak, receiving Imhe Sulong Bin Sulaiman (left; in dark shirt) and a group of Malays who visited him in Singapore after they had been shipwrecked in the American freighter "Amelia Earhart." The party had got to safety when the ship jettisoned part of her cargo and freed herself from the reef on which she was stranded. Mr. Brooke, who is at present living in Singapore, is fighting to have set aside the cession of Sarawak by his uncle to the British Crown, a transaction which took place on July 1, 1946, and ended the rule of the white rajahs which had continued since 1842. Anthony Brooke has been refused permission to return to Sarawak on the ground that his presence there might precipitate bloodshed between natives of the colony in favour of cession and those who oppose it

THE POPE AND THE "LAMBS OF GOD": His Holiness Pope Pius XII, in a traditional ceremony dating back to medieval days, is seen immersing in hot wax the discs, known as Agnus Dei, which are distributed during the Christmas season after receiving the Papal blessing. The discs were presented to the Pope in the Consistory Hall by the Cistercian monks, whose community of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem was given the exclusive privilege of making them by Pope Paul V. On one side of them is the impression of a lamb, and on the reverse are images of saints canonized during the present Pontiff's reign

SEEKING A SOLUTION OF THE THREE-CORNERED TUSSLE IN INDONESIA: Mr. Udo Stikker (right), the Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affairs, arriving at Jogjakarta, in Republican Indonesia, with Mr. E. J. M. A. Sarsen (left), Netherlands Minister of Overseas Territories, where the Dutch Parliamentary delegation was met by Mohammed Rum (second from right), one of the Republican leaders. The Dutch visitors flew into Jogjakarta in a Royal Dutch air-liner, the first to enter the Republican area since last summer. Mr. Stikker met Mr. Hatta, the Indonesian Premier, and discussed the present political impasse. The Republicans remain at loggerheads with the Dutch on the one hand and the Communists on the other, and are finding difficulty in bringing in essential supplies

Contrasts from Germany

RAISING THE SHIPS AT KIEL AND RAZING THE TORPEDO STATION AT ECKERNFÖRDE

Economically there is strangely conflicting news from Germany these days. While the raising of ships in Kiel Harbour has given the greatest satisfaction to Germans, particularly those in the scrap-metal business, British activities at neighbouring Eckernförde, some 20 miles up the coast, have caused the utmost disquiet. At Eckernförde, General Sir Brian Robertson, the Military Governor, has given orders for the giant torpedo-testing station to be completely demolished, and up to now he has refused to listen to the appeal of the Schleswig-Holstein Landtag, nor has he allowed himself to be influenced by workers' demonstrations in neighbouring Kiel and at Flensburg, Rendsburg and Schleswig. General Robertson emphasises that British policy has been exceedingly liberal in the past, and by protesting with regard to this purely military establishment Germans are weakening their case generally. When the U-boat campaign was at its height Eckernförde was the scene of the testing of 1,000 torpedoes each month. The base has never had any civilian aspect.

THE START OF THE DEMOLITIONS WHICH HAVE CAUSED MASSED PROTESTS THROUGHOUT SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN: A column of smoke rising from installations at Eckernförde, the German naval torpedo-testing station, which is being razed to the ground under a systematic three-months demolition programme. The demolitions have caused disquiet among the German people, because they claim that the buildings could be used for industry, and in the future they fear large-scale unemployment

THE SEA WALL AT ECKERNFÖRDE AFTER BLASTING: This was the first stage in the much-criticised demolition programme which began in the second week in December and caused widespread strikes, particularly among workers in Kiel. The Eckernförde base was designed and constructed exclusively for war purposes

TO CARRY GERMAN NEWS TO THE WESTERN WORLD: This new radio-telegraph transmitter station, with ten times the power of former installations, has been set up by the Deutsche Post in the United States' Sector of Berlin, and it will handle Allied Press messages

CLEARING KIEL HARBOUR OF WRECKS—A MIGHTY PROJECT THAT IS SECURING BRITAIN VALUABLE SUPPLIES OF SCRAP METAL: Salvage craft are seen engaged in raising the 23,000-ton German luxury liner "New York," one of 246 wrecks and sunken vessels recovered for scrap under the supervision of the British Ministry of Supply. Until two months ago such scrap was classed as war booty, and was available free, but under the terms of the European Recovery Programme it now has to be paid for. The scrap is being shipped to Britain at the rate of 20,000 tons per month, for which £7 2s. 6d. per ton is credited to the German economy. The German contractors are said to be jubilant at the high prices paid. Included among the wrecks in Kiel Harbour are fifty submarines and other relics of Hitler's Navy. The fact that the harbour is tideless has naturally facilitated the progress of salvage operations

THE SHELL OIL REFINERY IN HAMBURG IS BEING REBUILT: More than 4,000 Allied bombs hit the plant during the war, knocking it completely out of production for a considerable period. Its pre-war capacity was 350,000 tons per year. This picture shows construction work in progress on a number of tanks for the refined spirit

THE RUSSIANS RUSH BRIQUETTES INTO BERLIN: The decorated engine of a train which brought 800 tons of fuel into the city to help in the winter fuel crisis. On arrival in Berlin the train was greeted by leading members of the S.E.D. party

FUEL FOR THE FIRES OF DEMOCRACY! German workers unloading briquettes brought to Berlin from Leipzig in the specially-decorated train. On one of the freight cars were the words: "We are helping the democratic Berlin." This is said to be the forerunner of many similar relief trains, and, as ever, the Russian plan is to discredit Western Allied efforts by maintaining a higher standard in the Russian Sector of Berlin than in the Western Sectors, fed and fuelled by air-lift

BUILDING A GIANT STORAGE TANK AT THE SHELL OIL REFINERY IN HAMBURG: This tank is one of three with a capacity of 2,200,000 gallons. This reconstruction work has given vast satisfaction in the city, where there are now definite signs of trade recovery

THE OPENING OF JERUSALEM'S "ROAD of COURAGE"

The 25-mile Road Links Jerusalem with Tel Aviv and is Surfaced with an All-weather Composition

The United Nations General Assembly in Paris adjourned on December 12 until April 1. During its last week-end it adopted a resolution which established a Three-Power Conciliation Commission for Palestine, consisting of the United States, France and Turkey; its object—to start work at once to establish contact between the two parties and to extend the scope of the Security Council's armistice order to seek a peaceful settlement through direct negotiations or through mediation by the Conciliation Commission. The Security Council stayed a few days longer to discuss the admission of Israel to membership of the United Nations. Meanwhile, Israel has been consolidating its position in Palestine, and the newly-opened "Road of Courage" is an example of the constructive work which is being undertaken. The new road has become necessary to replace both the temporary one built during the siege and the regular road, through Latrun.

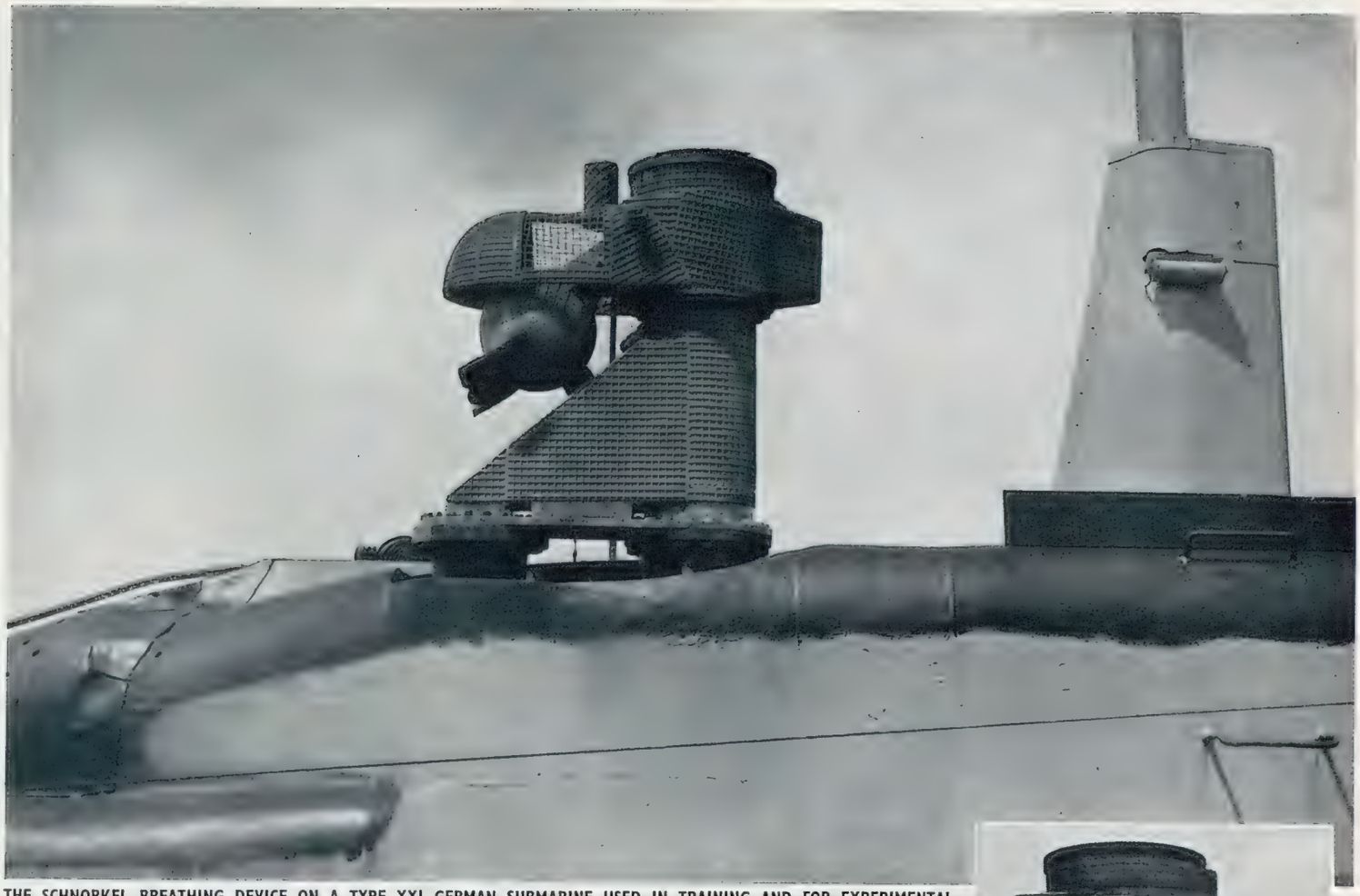
THE "ROAD OF COURAGE" WHICH LINKS JERUSALEM WITH TEL-AVIV AND REPLACES THE OLD ROAD, MADE DURING THE SIEGE OF JERUSALEM: It is paved with a special composition of sand, asphalt and small stones, which provides an all-weather surface. The old road has become impassable to traffic as winter rains wash away the sandy soil

THE ARCHWAY, COMMEMORATIVE OF THE OPENING OF THE "ROAD OF COURAGE": On top it bears the insignia of the Israeli Army. In the background lies Latrun, still held by the Arab Legion. The original Jerusalem-Tel-Aviv highway passes through Latrun

THE "PIONEER CORPS" OF THE ISRAELI ARMY: These orthodox Jews helped to build the 25-mile-long road between Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv, and, armed with spades and baskets, took part in the parade along the new highway, led by an officer of the Israeli Army

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER, MR. DAVID BEN-GURION, CUTS THE TAPE TO OPEN THE NEW ROAD: On the right, holding the tape, is Brigadier Yaacov Dorri, Chief of Staff of the Israeli Army

ISRAELI TROOPS, INCLUDING WOMEN, MARCH IN THE PARADE OF FORCES TO INAUGURATE THE NEW ROAD: The parade was the largest of Israeli forces yet seen, and many Ministers of the Israeli Government and senior officers of the Army were present

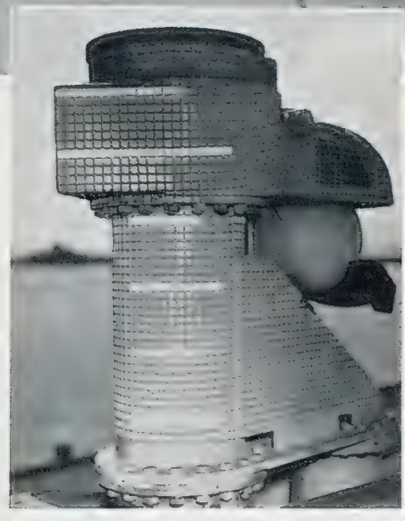


THE SCHNORKEL BREATHING DEVICE ON A TYPE XXI GERMAN SUBMARINE USED IN TRAINING AND FOR EXPERIMENTAL PURPOSES BY THE UNITED STATES NAVY: The Schnorkel device, which has also been developed in the Royal Navy, where it is known as the Snort, enables the submarine to use Diesels when operating under water

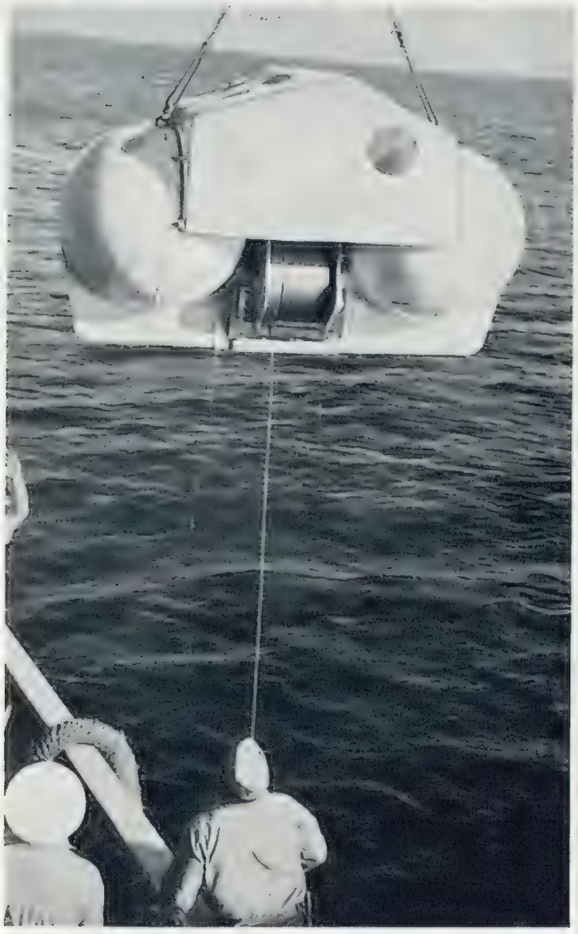
AXIS SUBMARINES GIVE AMERICA IDEAS

The German Schnorkel Device and the Japanese Watertight Deck Compartment

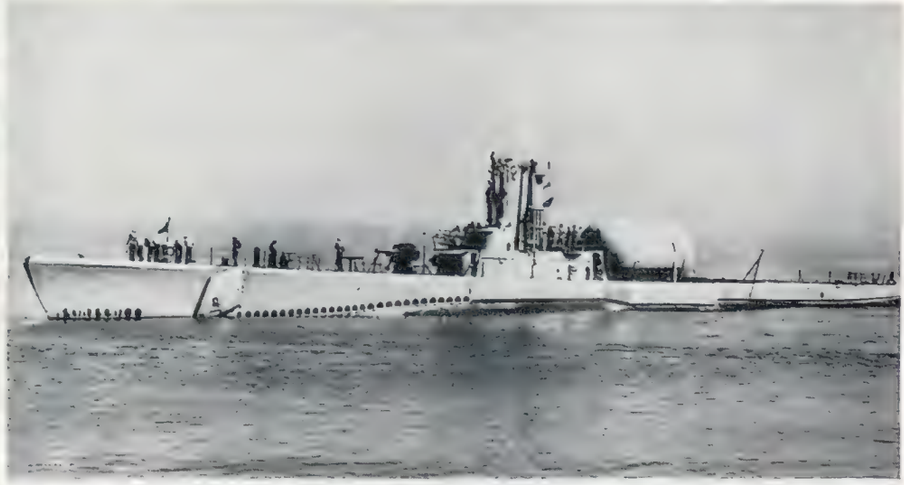
In some respects, notably in dial transmission and certain aspects of radar, the Germans and the Japanese lagged far behind the Allies during the war; in others, notably in submarine equipment, they tended to be ahead. Since the close of the war both Britain and America have investigated Axis subs very fully, and the Schnorkel device has been duly adapted to Allied needs. From the Japanese the Americans have adopted the idea of a deck compartment. The Japanese used their watertight compartments for catapult planes: the Americans for amphibious vehicles.



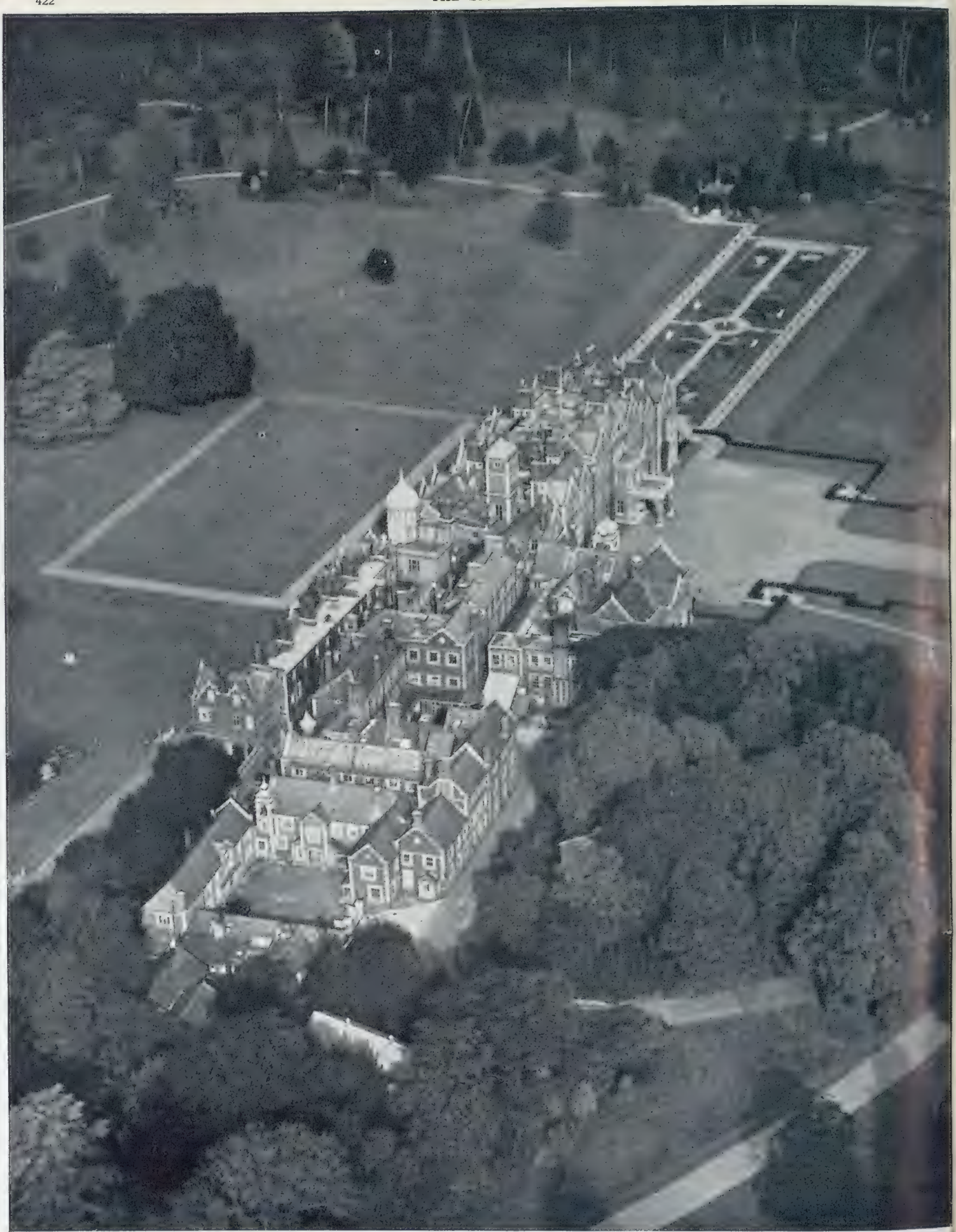
CLOSE-UP OF THE SCHNORKEL: The underwater breathing apparatus for submarines which the Germans introduced in the second half of the war, and which has now been modified for Allied use



A NEW-TYPE BUOY TO SPEED SUBMARINE RESCUE WORK: Buoys of this description may soon be standard equipment for all American submarines. As soon as a submerged submarine gets into difficulties, the buoy, with its large buoyancy chambers, is released to the surface. A reel in the centre carries a wire cable which is connected to the submarine escape hatch and unreels automatically as the buoy rises. When a salvage vessel appears on the scene a rescue chamber is attached to the wire and lowered to the stricken craft. The idea was tried out with success during exercises held off Key West, Florida



AN IDEA BORROWED FROM THE JAPANESE—THE UNITED STATES SUBMARINE "PERCH" EQUIPPED AS A TROOP TRANSPORT WITH ACCOMMODATION FOR 160 MEN AND WITH A WATERTIGHT CHAMBER AFT OF THE CONNING-TOWER FOR CARRYING AMPHIBIOUS LANDING VEHICLES: The "Perch" is an experimental craft of the Balao class, and the idea of the deck compartment comes from the giant Japanese submarine I—402, which was taken over for examination by the American naval forces after the surrender in 1945. The I—402 could carry four planes on its deck and catapult them into action a few minutes after rising to the surface. The *Perch* can launch amphibious vehicles on to a beach-head in notably quick time after surfacing



SANDRINGHAM

THE ROYAL HOME IN NORFOLK, WHERE THE KING MAY SPEND HIS CONVALESCENCE

SANDRINGHAM VIEWED FROM A HELICOPTER: This picture of the Royal country home was taken from one of the rotating-wing aircraft operating on the East Anglian mail route. It shows the extensive buildings of Sandringham Hall, where the Royal family usually spend Christmas among their Norfolk tenants. This year, owing to the King's illness, plans have had to be changed, but, judging from the pre-Christmas bulletin, it is probable that His Majesty will go there for his convalescence early in 1949

Sandringham Hall, so often the scene of Christmas Royal broadcasts, was purchased by Edward VII (then Prince of Wales) in the year 1862, and it has remained popular with the Royal family ever since. The fact that the King was unable to leave London this Christmas must have been a grievous disappointment to his Sandringham tenantry, but it has already been indicated that a visit to the country may be possible in the New Year. The original Sandringham Hall was demolished and the present Hall built in 1869-71, in imitation of the Elizabethan style. A fire in 1891 did damage to the tune of £10,000. The grounds of Sandringham cover about 200 acres, and in the surrounding farmlands King George VI has carried out many important agricultural experiments, notably during the war years, when Sandringham was the scene of a flax-growing enterprise

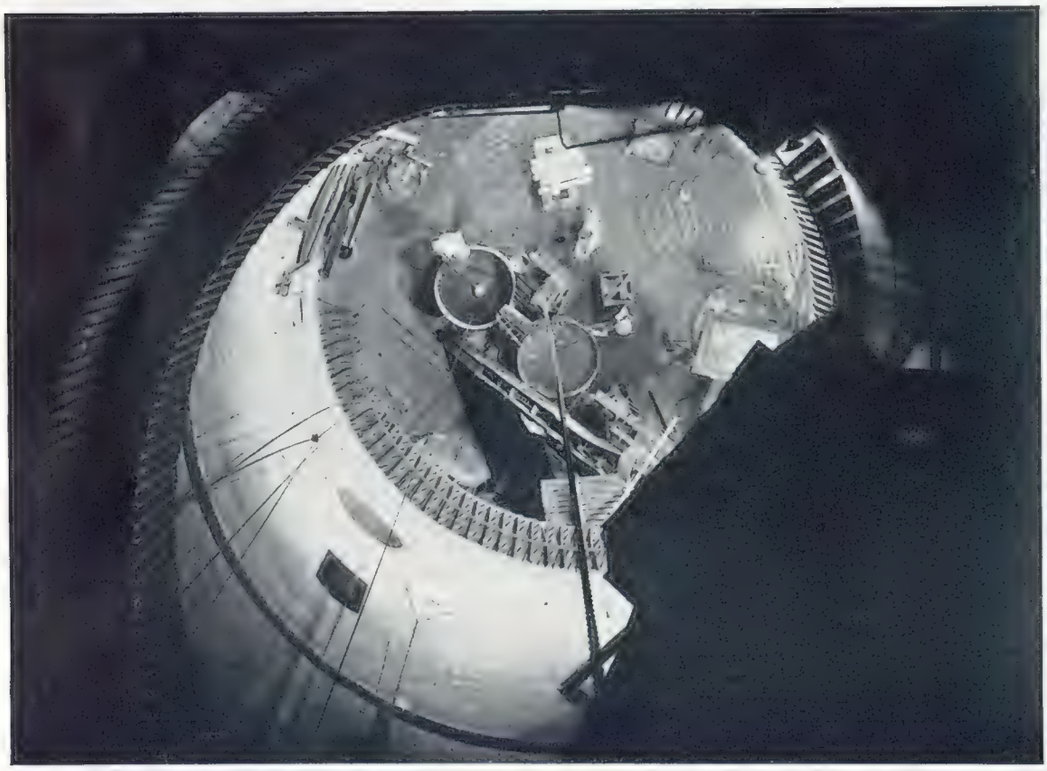
THE ROYAL PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE, SANDRINGHAM, A CHURCH CONTAINING NUMEROUS ROYAL MEMORIALS: The Duke of Clarence, eldest son of King Edward VII, died at Sandringham in 1892; Prince John, a son of King George V and Queen Mary, is commemorated in the churchyard. The church adjoins the grounds of the Hall and is built in the familiar flint which blends so well with the surrounding countryside and is so largely used in towns and villages of North Norfolk

SANDRINGHAM CHURCH, WHERE GENERATIONS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY ARE COMMEMORATED: *Left*—The Royal pew on the south side of the chancel. It bears a brass plate recording that the "pew was occupied by my beloved husband from the year of our marriage in 1863 until 1910 when the Lord took him to himself," and it is signed Alexandra. *Right*—Looking along the nave towards the solid silver altar. The altar was presented to the church on the first anniversary of the death of King Edward VII. The Royal pew is on the right of the chancel. Above the pulpit, near the hymnal board, is a plaque commemorating King George V

LAST DAYS AT THE LAMBETH SHOT TOWER

An Ancient Craft that is to be Discontinued

WALKER'S SHOT TOWER, A FAMILIAR LANDMARK ON THE RIGHT BANK OF THE THAMES: The Shot Tower stands on the area at the southern approaches to Waterloo Bridge and in the grounds which are being cleared for the London Exhibition of 1951. The Exhibition Committee has requested that the Shot Tower remain, but as a landmark only, and the shot-makers, who have plied their trade for over 100 years, are leaving there



LOOKING FROM THE MIDDLE WORKING CHAMBER THROUGH THE CENTRE OF THE LAMBETH SHOT TOWER: This view is taken from half-way up the tower, and shows the water-tanks into which the shot is dropped from varying heights according to the size of shot required. In the centre a worker is about to load one of the pigs (lead bars weighing 1 cwt.) on to the hoist to take it to the platform for melting

Originally the Lambeth Shot Tower produced ammunition for the Services, but since the introduction of the modern bullet the Shot Tower has concentrated upon pellets for sporting guns, air-guns, other smooth-bore weapons and counterweights. At the time of writing, the tower is about to be evacuated by its shot-makers, but it will continue to serve as a landmark at the south side of Waterloo Bridge. The pictures on this page show shot-makers at work within the tower. The molten lead is poured through a perforated card which, for the smallest type of shot, has no fewer than 1,448 holes, and it falls from a height into a water-trough, the separate balls of lead forming and cooling during the fall. The larger shot is poured from the upper chamber, the smaller from the middle, as it requires less time to cool. From the water-troughs the shot is carried on a conveyer for cleaning, stirring, drying and polishing before being packed into 28-lb. bags. The daily average quota is about five tons of finished shot.

HIGH UP ON A PLATFORM INSIDE THE LAMBETH SHOT TOWER: The "runner" is pouring the molten lead into the sieve. Through the 1,448 holes of the sieve the shot drops down through the tower to cool in the water-tanks below. The height from which the shot is dropped determines the size of the finished product

THE SHOT-POLISHING DRUM: The rough lead pellets, after they have cooled in the water-tank, are now completed for use

THE DUCKS FLY FROM THE ICY LAKE AT INDIANOLA, IOWA: This remarkable picture of a huge flock of ducks, estimated by conservation commission officials at between 15,000 and 20,000, was taken as the birds soared above the waters of Lake Ahquabi to go in search of food in the neighbouring cornfields. During a recent period of sub-zero cold the ducks managed to keep a five-acre area of water free from ice. Ducks, mostly mallard drakes, have been coming into Iowa in great flocks from Canada and Minnesota

Weather Contrasts From Two Hemispheres

SUB-ZERO IN IOWA, SIGNS OF SPRING IN LONDON

HARBINGERS OF THE FAR-DISTANT SPRING: With December weather records being broken by the mild conditions of the first fortnight of the month, Kew Gardens have been showing premature signs of spring. The snowdrop *on the left* is at least seven weeks ahead of schedule, while another early arrival is the Iris Stylosa (*right*), displaying the rain-spotted beauty of her lavender petals. Mr. G. H. Preston, Assistant Curator at Kew, when asked if the emergence of the stylosa was expected at this time of year, declared: "In North Africa, original home of the stylosa, yes, but not in England in mid-December"

BRITAIN PROVIDES THE POWER FOR ITALY'S NEW AIR-LINER—A BREDA-ZAPPATA PASSENGER PLANE TAKING OFF FROM MALPENSA AIRPORT, MILAN: The machine will cruise at 350 m.p.h. at 18,000 ft. It is built by the Breda Company at Sesto San Giovanni, near Milan, and is powered with Bristol Centaurus engines

AIR BRAKING — THE AMERICAN AIR FORCE ADOPTS PITCH-REVERSING MECHANISM; FLOUR BEING THROWN INTO THE PROPELLERS OF A BOMBER AT THE CURTISS WRIGHT AIRPORT AT CALDWELL, NEW JERSEY, TO SHOW HOW IT IS BLOWN FORWARD, EXACTLY OPPOSITE TO THE DIRECTION OF THE NORMAL SLIPSTREAM: By equipping multi-engined aircraft with reversible-pitch propellers it is possible for them to come down from high altitudes at speeds up to 8,000 ft. per minute, and to cut landing-time by more than 60 per cent. The system is now widely accepted, both in England and America, and the contra-rotating propellers fitted to the Brabazon I, Britain's giant, should prove most effective air brakes

Italy places great confidence in the Breda-Zappata air-liner, and if she is to regain her place in the world of international travel this is undoubtedly the type of aircraft for the purpose. The Breda-Zappata will accommodate fifty-five passengers on Trans-continental journeys, and on short day trips there is accommodation for eighty passengers. Like the Brabazon I, she is equipped with Bristol Centaurus engines. These air-cooled sleeve-valve radial engines each have a take-off power of approximately 2,500 b.h.p. The aircraft is pressurised.

BRITAIN and AMERICA BUILD BIG

And Other News of the Aviation World

POINTING THE WAY TO CHICAGO'S AIRPORT: This is claimed to be the world's largest directional sign for aviation and is installed on the roof of a Chicago business house. The sign indicates the 9 miles to the Chicago Municipal Airport, and (smaller arrow and circle) the 2-miles distance to the nearest landing-place on Northerly Isle. The signs were arranged in conjunction with the National Campaign of the Aircraft Owners' and Pilots' Association

A "TAXI" DOWN THE STREET: An aeroplane being taxied down Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh, on the occasion of a recent convention of the Air Force Association of the United States. While this plane is seen passing Clerry Way another was following behind. During the staging of this "stunt," traffic was badly dislocated

THE NEW GENERATION OF AIRCRAFT — THE BRABAZON I, "QUEEN MARY" OF THE SKIES, ON THE AERODROME AT FILTON, NEAR BRISTOL, WHERE SHE HAS RECENTLY COMPLETED FUEL-FLOW TESTS: Fully loaded she will weigh 290,000 lbs., and she exemplifies the size of aircraft likely to be in service on the world's air routes in ten years' time. Passenger accommodation is arranged mainly on one deck, with a half-deck rise over the wing for a dining saloon

The Bristol Brabazon was first conceived in December 1942, and not until the beginning of 1949 will she take the air. This aircraft, equipped to fly in pressurised security above the weather from England to the United States, has cost several millions, and indeed the whole project, including hangar construction, is in the neighbourhood of £12,000,000. She represents Britain's effort to capture the air commerce of the North Atlantic, and to hold our position as the world's great carriers. The Brabazon I has a wing-span of 230 ft., almost twice that of Britain's largest bomber, the Avro Lincoln, and her approximate weight is 127 tons. She is pressurised to maintain an equivalent cabin altitude of 8,000 ft. while flying at 25,000 ft. She will carry 100 passengers by day or night, in addition to a flight crew of seven and five stewards. The prototype, Brabazon I, will have a cruising speed of 250 m.p.h., but the Brabazon II, which will be equipped with gas turbines in place of reciprocating engines, should be able to cruise economically at 350 m.p.h.

THE WORLD'S FIRST ROADWAY UNDERPASS — A CONSTELLATION AIR-LINER OF AIR FRANCE TAXI-ING ALONG THE RUNWAY AT THE NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WHILE CARS PASS BENEATH IT: The underpass bridge has been built to withstand the pressure of planes up to the size of Brabazon I

In laying out the new International Airport at New York it was decided to construct a concrete road 1½ miles long leading from the terminal buildings to Sunrise Highway, which skirts the 4,900-acre airport. The project, which has taken eighteen months to complete, has necessitated the construction of the underpass depicted above. This underpass has two bridges capable of supporting 300,000-lb. planes, and a great deal of ingenuity has gone into its construction to enable it to withstand water and ground pressure

SIR STAFFORD GARLANDED : The Chancellor of the Exchequer speaking at the Christmas reception of the Indian Students' Union (Y.M.C.A.) at the Macmillan Hall in London where he and Lady Cripps were the guests of honour. After his speech Sir Stafford took tea with the Hon. H. G. C. Dasappa, Minister of Finance and Industry for Mysore

CROWNING LONDON'S ST. LUCIA BRIDE : This was the scene in Swedish Hall, Harcourt Road, London, as Ellen Bergstrom, who hails from Jonkoping, Southern Sweden, appeared with her traditional crown of candles. The legend of St. Lucia dates from the early Christian era. St. Lucia, virgin and martyr of Syracuse, persuaded her mother to distribute her wealth to the poor after she had been miraculously cured. St. Lucia was denounced and executed for her piety

CHRISTMASTIDE NEWS FROM LONDON AND THE PROVINCES

A Pictorial Survey of Recent Events

THE G.O.P.O.! This building at Painswick, Gloucester, is claimed to be the oldest post office building in Britain. Records suggest that it is over 500 years old and that it once stood in the midst of an orchard. American troops in the district during the war knew the place well, and were "tickled to death" to send mail from a place of such antiquity. Some of them still write to the postmaster

THE PRE-FAB WITH THE PERMANENT LOOK : This show-house at Banstead, Surrey, is described as a prefabricated thermo-insulated timber house. It is manufactured in its component parts in fourteen factories, and delivered in such a way that it can be erected on a prepared foundation in one week. The house is erected on a concrete slab, forming a solid ground floor. External walls are built up from prefabricated timber panels with planed, tongued and grooved outer boarding and Heraclith boarding for plastering inside. Ceilings are framed panels, all prefabricated, having an exposed under-surface of fireboard and an upper surface of timber boards

PULPIT FOR TWO : The Rev. Elijah P. Schofield, Minister of Clapton Park Congregational Church, with his ventriloquial dummy, Jimmy, during a service for young people. The appearance of Jimmy has caused a great rise in attendance at the church, and he now turns up at Sunday School, the Mothers' Union and Old Pensioners' meetings. Mr. Schofield learnt the art of ventriloquism from his brother, for whom in his young days he used to deputise

WHAT WILL THE BISHOP DO NEXT? Miss Lucy Anners, headmistress of Aylesbury Road Modern County School, Bromley, taking a class in chess at her school, which must be one of the very few in Britain that includes the game in its curriculum. Miss Anners has been teaching chess for seventeen years, and thinks her girls are good enough to throw out a challenge to any boys' school which cares to accept it. Two girls from one of her classes have won first and second places in the British Girls' Chess Championship

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH IN BERMONDSEY : Unheralded and unannounced Prince Philip visited the Canterbury Club last week to see a boxing contest in progress against a North Kensington club and he sat at the ringside with timekeeper and judges. The Duke's visit was the last of a series of nine which he has been making informally during the past month to clubs of the London Federation of Boys' Clubs, of which he is patron. The Canterbury Club, now fifty years old, is in the Tower Bridge Road

THE ARMY LENDS A HELPING HAND IN SCOTLAND'S BRIDGELESS BORDERLAND : This bridge over the Whiteadder, near Berwick, was built in thirty hours by men of the School of Military Engineering, and it replaces the Whiteadder Bridge swept away during the disastrous floods of last August. The bridge has a footway on either side, and when this picture was taken the carriageway was being laid at speed preparatory to the opening of single-line traffic. It was designed by Major J. A. Fenwick, R.E., Senior Instructor of the School of Military Engineering's Bridge Wing, and the four piers, in erecting which the sappers drove 35 ft. below the river, were designed by Mr. C. Girven, Chief Assistant of the Bridges Department, Northumberland County Council. The site has been visited by Lieut.-General Sir Montague Stopford, Northern Command

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE UNITED STATES EASTERN, ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN FLEETS : Admiral Richard L. Conolly in his office at 20, Grosvenor Square, London, almost a Navy Department on its own account, from which he directs his vast organisation when not aboard his flagship, the United States heavy cruiser "Columbus"

THE BIG THREE OF U.S. NAVAL AFFAIRS IN EUROPE : Admiral Richard L. Conolly, C.-in-C. of the United States Eastern, Atlantic and Mediterranean Fleets, at 20, Grosvenor Square, with Rear-Admiral George R. Henderson (left), his Deputy Commander-in-Chief, and Rear-Admiral Joseph F. Bolger (right), his Chief of Staff. On the wall behind them hangs a portrait of President Truman, Commander-in-Chief of all the armed forces of the Union. No. 20, Grosvenor Square has been used as the U.S. Navy's headquarters in the British capital since 1941, and to-day it is hardly less important as a nerve centre than it was during the vital years of war. Here officers and enlisted men handle the maze of operational and administrative details necessary for the efficient performance of fleet units operating in a command which extends, roughly, from the Equator to the North Pole and from the Azores to the Indian Ocean

A SUNFISH IN OYSTERLAND : Two Whitstable fishermen with the sunfish which was washed ashore during the recent gales and left stranded by the receding tide. When weighed the sunfish scaled over 100 lb. It measured about 3 ft. long and was 10 ins. thick

A BARMOTE COURT IN SESSION, JUDGING RIVAL CLAIMS IN THE STONEY CROFT LIMESTONE QUARRY : Members of the 700-year-old Great Barmote Court have been asked to adjudicate on a recent strike of "lead" at Wirksworth, Derby, and the Grand Jurymen are seen in this picture as they prepared to view the Stoney Croft Vein. "Bills of Direction" were issued to the eleven jurymen by Major J. D. Symonds, the Steward of the Court. A Barmote Court is a name applied since early times to courts held in the lead-mining districts of Derbyshire for the settlement of any disputes which may arise in connection with the industry. Barmote Courts have been in existence since the reign of Edward I, and their jurisdiction extends both to the Crown lands in the Duchy of Lancaster and to those under individual ownership in seven clearly-defined districts. Owing to the progress made in modern mining, many of the customs and much of the procedure of the Barmote Courts have become obsolete, and since 1851 their powers have been regulated by the High Peak Mining Customs and Mineral Courts Act

THE TENTH-CENTURY TOWER OF ST. BENE'T'S IS IN DANGER: This pre-Conquest church, once forming the chapel of Corpus Christi College, is appealing for £600 for the preservation of its tower. St. Bene't's is the oldest building in Cambridge

HISTORIC CHURCHES CALL FOR AID

St. Bene't's, Cambridge, St. James', Piccadilly, and St. Nicholas, Compton

St. Bene't's, one of three churches now making special appeals to public generosity, is really a victim of faulty restoration in the nineteenth century, when the surface of the tower was unsatisfactorily treated. As a result, it is now in a dangerous state of decay, and many of the stones are loose. There are also signs of the death-watch beetle in the timbers. St. Bene't's, or St. Benedict's as it is sometimes called, served as the Chapel of Corpus Christi until the seventeenth century.

IN ITS DAY THE MOST FASHIONABLE CHURCH IN LONDON: St. James', Piccadilly, built by Wren in 1680, at the expense of Henry Jermyn, Earl of St. Albans, reputed husband of Henrietta Maria, widow of Charles I, is now launching an appeal to raise funds to restore the vast damage of the blitz. The Queen sent a handbag to St. James' Christmas auction, and Queen Mary sent a number of gifts, also for sale on behalf of the funds. One of the great features of St. James' in the last two years has been the memorial garden, an idea conceived by the late Lord Southwood, a rendezvous for workers during the lunch hour. The interior, which has been so badly damaged, was said to represent Wren's best work

AN HISTORIC SURREY CHURCH: The Saxon and Norman Church of St. Nicholas which is in urgent need of repairs. The Rector and churchwardens are appealing for £2,000 to carry out work on roof and steeple

A NORMAN KNIGHT IN FULL ACCOUTREMENTS: This rough sketch, adorning a pillar behind the pulpit of Compton Church, is supposed to have been made with the point of a dagger, and it represents a Crusader in all his wartime equipment

Compton Church, for which an appeal is now being made, is unique in that it has a double chancel, or sanctuary, one over the other. Although there were a few other examples of this arrangement in other English churches, of which there are still traces, Compton is the only church where it now exists in a complete state. The sanctuary is low and groined; the chapel above the groining is proved to have had an altar by the presence of a piscina in the upper wall. The most likely suggestion as to the upper sanctuary is that it was used for special devotions in connection with a holy relic. There is a projecting enclosure for a staircase on the south side, and an anchorites cell. The western front of the upper sanctuary is guarded by a wooden balustrade, divided into nine semicircular arches. This balustrade is of supreme interest as being the only piece of Norman wooden screenwork in England. During repairs in 1906 it was found that the chancel walls were of late eleventh-century date, thickened internally by an extra foot about 1180 to take the thrust of the sanctuary vault. The wide segmental arch to the lower sanctuary is enriched by dog-tooth and cuspidated ornaments.

THE DOUBLE-STORIED CHANCEL OF COMPTON CHURCH: This is well shown in this view looking from the nave towards the altar. The Norman balustrade of wood in the upper sanctuary can be clearly seen

THE KEATS-SHELLEY MEMORIAL HOUSE IN THE PIAZZA DE SPAGNA, ROME: **The house, acquired and dedicated to the memory of the two poets by their admirers in England and America, is to be maintained, it is hoped, with the £10,000 endowment fund now being raised in England.** It was at this house that Keats died in 1821, a year after he had gone to Italy in the hope of recovering his health. At that time Shelley was at Pisa, and had indeed invited Keats to join him there, but the latter set out for Naples with his lifelong friend, Joseph Severn, the artist. They did not get beyond Rome. After Keats' death in 1821, Shelley wrote *Adonais*, his immortal elegy upon him, containing the lines:

Go thou to Rome,—at once the Paradise
The grave, the city, and the wilderness

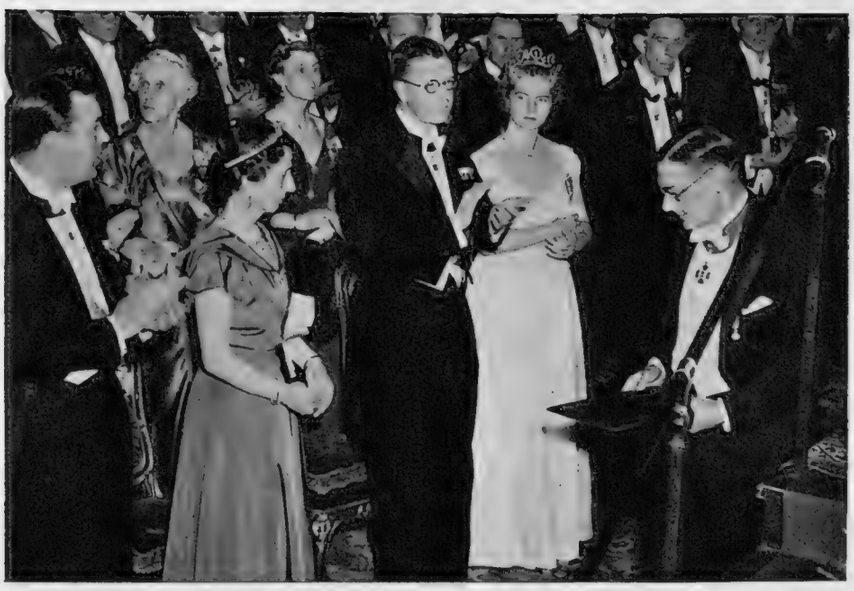
THE LIBRARY IN THE PIAZZA DE SPAGNA, ROME: In addition to a rich collection of volumes, there are autographed manuscripts of Keats and Shelley. Both poets were under thirty at the time of their deaths, which took place within a year of each other

KEATS and SHELLEY in ROME

Collecting Funds to Maintain the Memorial House in the Piazza de Spagna

THE GRAVE OF JOHN KEATS: The celebrated memorial in the English cemetery, Rome, bearing the words, "Here lies one whose name was writ in water." The £10,000 fund now being raised in England will allow of the permanent endowment of the Keats-Shelley house, and money will be made available for the maintenance of the graves of the two poets

THE GRAVE OF PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY: Giulio Damiani, the caretaker of the cemetery, watering flowers around the grave. Shelley was drowned at sea when on a passage from Leghorn in a sailing-yacht



T. S. ELIOT RECEIVES THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE: **The American-born poet is acclaimed by members of the Swedish Royal Family after receiving the award at a Stockholm gathering.** Mr. Eliot is on the right, and left to right in the front row are: Prince Bertil (son of Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf), Crown Princess Luise, Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf, Princess Sybilla (wife of the late Prince Gustaf Adolf), Prince Wilhelm (brother of the Crown Prince) and Prince Carl. At the same time as Mr. Eliot was honoured, Professor P. M. S. Blackett, Manchester University Professor, received the Nobel Prize for Physics. Professor Tiselius, of Upsala, received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry

THE JURY OF THE PRIX GONCOURT DELIBERATE IN PARIS: **The six adjudicators at the Restaurant Drouant, where they announced that the winner of the literary prize for 1948 is M. Maurice Druon for his novel "Big Families."** Druon worked at the B.B.C. for the Free French during the war. In the foreground of this picture are M. Andre Billy, Colette and M. Leo Languies. Behind them are M. Alexandre Arnoux, M. Roland Dorgeles and M. Gerard Bauer

BEFORE THE KING SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE

Behind the Scenes of the Greatest Broadcast of the Year

By CHARLES GRAVES

ONCE again on Christmas Day the B.B.C. will be telescoping distances with its world-wide broadcast culminating in the message from His Majesty, who intends to broadcast in spite of his illness, and many people must wonder how the split-second timing and the gigantic tapestry of the broadcast is organised. At least one of the items was planned last March. Generally speaking, however, Laurence Gilliam and Leonard Cottrell begin to devise a theme in the previous September. When this has been approved by the Programme Board, they go ahead sending airmail letters and cables to their overseas offices in such places as Canada, Australia and India, asking for illustrations to the suggested theme, this time "Good Neighbours." Where there is no B.B.C. office they contact the local broadcasting company, as in South Africa. Take, for example, Canada. Two or three different choices illustrating the required good neighbourliness were suggested by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and it was finally decided to select the 7,000 Club in Toronto, a club for British emigrants, of whom 450 were arranging to have a party on Christmas Day. A suggested script was cabled from Toronto and approved in London, with the proviso that there should be at least one speaker from Ulster and another from Scotland. The speakers having been selected and songs arranged, a rehearsal took place in the club last Saturday which was relayed "live" to London at £2 a minute for half an hour. Laurence Gilliam and Leonard Cottrell listened in and then made suggestions which were incorporated and re-rehearsed. When the rehearsal was finally correct, it was recorded just in case something goes wrong to-day.

It is surprising how seldom there are hitches, though climatic conditions usually produce a failure on an average of three items per eighteen. It is always, for example, a sporting risk that the broadcast from New Zealand will not come through clearly in the middle of the day. If this occurs, and, following a noise like eggs frying, there are a series of awful squeaks, the trained engineer in the B.B.C. switches out the "live" channel and inserts a record which is shadowing the "live" broadcast word for word.

When there is no trouble, the speakers in various parts of the world are listening, perhaps only on a portable set, for the moment when it is their turn to come on the air. All have an engineer listening anxiously beside them to warn them that they are now on the air. It is very rarely indeed that a speaker dries up from stage-fright. Incidentally, the same people are never used twice.

But how are the items selected? Well, the small Dorset village of Bidcombe which will start the programme to-day was chosen by Ralph Wightman, who broadcasts in "Country Magazine." Laurence Gilliam then went down there to check on it and spent a day on the scripting. He was followed by the recording car, which gave the selected speakers, the clergyman and farmer among others, a workout. In the meantime, the vicar, having sworn his choir to secrecy, told them to practise "Hark, the herald angels sing" very fervently indeed. The reward is a donation to the church in this case. On other occasions there may be some substantial gift to the family dinner. Occasionally, cash is given if it is particularly appropriate.

The search for the speaker who metaphorically introduces the King is always an arduous one. Last year it took a week of auditions of miners before the right man could be found. He, incidentally, has just written to Laurence Gilliam to say that he has to have an operation, but refused to go to hospital until he has heard the broadcast this year. As usual, the identity of the last speaker before the Monarch is still a secret, but one can say that four different people in different parts of the world had been undergoing tests before the final choice was made.

Most of the music this year will be arranged to fit the melody of "Over the Sea to Skye." It is particularly appropriate in the case of the Scottish crofters on the Kyle of Loch Alsh, opposite the Isle of Skye, for they are holding a ceiledgh—in other words, a Gaelic musical party and feast to celebrate the recent introduction of electric-light to the Kyle of Loch Alsh, and thence to Skye. (Actually, of course, they ought to sing "*Under* the Sea to Skye.")

The Lancashire family was selected by Norman Swallow. They live in the same street in which Gracie Fields was born and have lodging with them a Ukrainian and his wife—European voluntary workers in the textile industry. You will hear Mr. Banks saying something to this effect: "We don't normally like foreigners. You smell funny smells in the kitchen, but when you get to know them you find they are quite nice people," followed by the Ukrainians' gratitude for their reception here.

Naturally, the Berlin airlift will figure in the programme. Chester Wilmot arrived three days ago in the German capital with an aircraft bringing Christmas food to the local inhabitants. He has already been recorded from the control tower at Gatow describing the arrival of the Christmas hampers, and then following one of them to a typical German home—a block of flats made out of rubble, belonging to Herr and Frau Hoffmann. Frau Hoffmann is a former English actress who has lived for seventeen years in Berlin, married to a German artist. Their sons, incidentally, are christened Christopher and Robin.

HOLLYWOOD WELCOMES CHRISTMAS WITH THE USUAL GRAND PARADE: Cinema stars, lighted Christmas-trees, and a two-hour-long parade along Hollywood Boulevard ushered in the festive season. Among those who rode on floats, horses and elephants were Bob Hope, Dorothy Lamour, Roy Rogers and Sabu

Edward Ward has in the past few weeks toured over 3,000 miles of Europe with Marjorie Banks for his series of Progress Reports, and has selected Padre Guiletti and his mutilated children in Milan for his own particular three minutes. Leonard Cottrell discovered a Dutch family in the north-east polder of the Zuyder Zee who are celebrating Christmas on the reclaimed sea-bed. Their name is Bruinsma, which makes one think of mother bear and the four baby bears. Big bear talks tolerably good English, and is the recipient of certificates from both Eisenhower and Tedder for hiding and rescuing Allied airmen shot down during the war. Personally, I am looking forward very much to his description of the food and drink which they are enjoying this afternoon.

An English workman in the docks of St. Nazaire, Mr. Caldecott by name, has been selected to speak from a prefab. restaurant in the heart of the blitzed area called the Café Centrale. He has worked for twenty years in the docks, and will speak feelingly of the way in which they were blown up by the Commandos while the town was blitzed by the R.A.F.

The trickiest item in to-day's programme will undoubtedly be the one from Nairobi describing yesterday's Christmas Eve dinner with the ground-nutters at Kongwa, in Tanganyika. As there is no local transmitter, Tony Dean, an ex-officer in the Buffs, had to fly 400 miles with his portable recording gear to Kongwa to record material with which he flew back to Nairobi, where he beamed it to London. That was a month ago. Since then he had to fly back again with the edited script for another week before finally recording yesterday's dinner. Having done so, he flew this morning, or so it is hoped, to Nairobi to put it on the air at the exact moment when it is due for this afternoon's broadcast. So when Robert Donat says "Over to Nairobi," you can well imagine that Laurence Gilliam and Leonard Cottrell will be feeling anxious.

The item from the rubber plantation in Malaya should be good to judge from one of the cablese messages received by Broadcasting House from the B.B.C. engineer on the spot. It reads: "Mr. Lim Yew whose Chinese stop Mr. Lims in charge outdoor workers men who actually tap rubbertrees stop LM colon happy Christmas you allwards stop Great festival for us Chinese is Chinese New Year but we like offlet crackers Xmastide as well stop Pendrigh colon no firecrackers this year though stop special constables unknow which bang which bandit stop."

Early this morning at Broadcasting House rehearsals will have continued from 1 a.m. to 4 a.m., after which Laurence Gilliam goes bleary-eyed to his home, fills his children's stockings, drinks a large whisky-and-soda, snatches an hour's sleep, and returns through the deserted streets to Broadcasting House for the final changes necessitated by some inevitable hitch during his brief absence from Broadcasting House.

The question of timing is, of course, all-important. Two years ago there was no sign of the West Indian Calypso Band ten minutes before the broadcast began. Laurence Gilliam walked haggardly into the corridor and saw a very happy West Indian riding up and down in the lift all by himself. In order to get "into the groove" he had taken a fair modicum of rum, and when finally brought to a halt announced that there was nothing to worry about, all his chums would be along in a minute. They did, in fact, arrive, but the double bass forgot to bring his instrument, and there was only seven or eight minutes in which to find another one. This was finally secured from the Symphony Orchestra a split second before they were due on the air—only one of the many crises which have occurred at the last minute.

This is Gilliam's sixteenth Christmas Day broadcast. It is astonishing how young and cheerful he looks, considering the annual inevitable strain of putting together the most remarkable human jigsaw puzzle that history has ever known.

MONKEY BUSINESS AT OLYMPIA

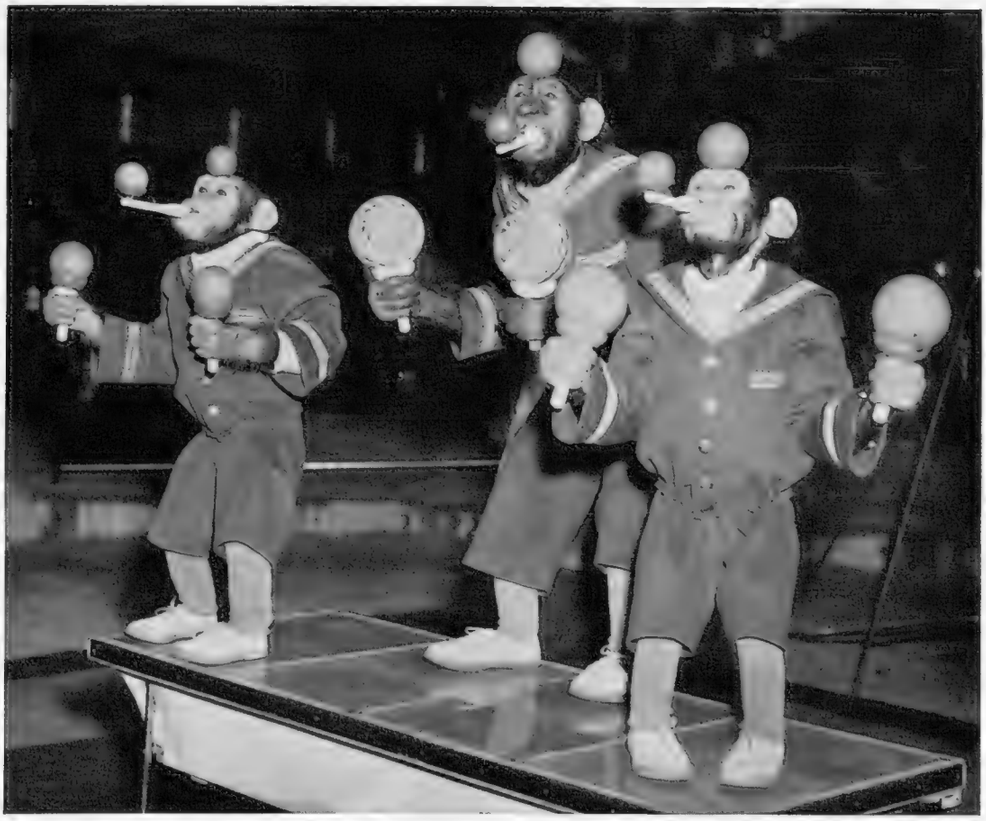
A Popular Act in the 22nd Bertram Mills Circus at Olympia

ONE OF KNIE'S CHIMPANZEES IN THE TIGHT-ROPE ACT AT OLYMPIA: The Knie Circus of Switzerland is one of the most famous on the Continent and is in the happy position of attracting all the best acts because of the hard currency of the country. The chimpanzees besides walking the tight-rope and juggling, perform in a comic restaurant scene and end by playing in a jazz band. The polar bear act at Olympia also comes from the Knie Circus. Polar bears are considered to be among the most savage beasts in the world

ANTHROPOID POISE: The chimpanzee enjoys his act and the applause it arouses. Knie's chimpanzees provide one of the most popular acts of this year's Bertram Mills Circus at Olympia

ANTHROPOID BALANCE: The chimpanzees are adept at juggling and can keep four balls in the air at the same time. They are natural clowns

THE CHIMPANZEE GOES INTO HIS DANCE: Cleverly handling his balancing umbrella, he performs a number of amusing antics to the delight of the audience when well out in the middle of the tight-rope



WITH FOUR JUGGLING BALLS WELL UNDER CONTROL: The flat tops of the chimpanzees' heads help them, but they are naturally skilful and can do many of the tricks which have been perfected by human jugglers. The act ends with them playing four different instruments in a jazz band. This year's circus has cost the Mills brothers more than £100,000 to present, and the show runs for three months

The World of Books—By VERNON FANE

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A PLAYGOER

A. E. Wilson's Engaging Reminiscences of the Theatre; Three Decades of Dramatic Criticism

MR. A. E. WILSON is as true a man of the theatre as any I have ever met. His playgoing career started in childhood, and since 1920 he has been dramatic critic for the *Star*. The wonder is that after this intensive training and practice he should retain his love of the stage and its people, and that the freshness of his enthusiasm should be unfaded. Naturally, in these years he has gained in experience, and his critical comments have gained in depth and in perception, but the keenness is unaltered, and PLAYGOER'S PILGRIMAGE (Stanley Paul. 21s.), which contains many tributes to theatrical folk, is in itself an unconscious tribute to the spontaneity and affections of the author himself.

Mr. Wilson's memory has a wide range, for, as a child, he saw Dan Leno and Ellen Terry and, to judge from his book, he was evidently the kind of child who took notes. In the present day he is, of course, at every major first night, and his criticisms, often witty, acute but never damaging, and always full of sound sense, illustrate the trends of to-day's theatre. He has some excellent stories to tell in these reminiscences; of Edgar Wallace, who, as a young man, would not only edit a weekly magazine, but write nearly all the articles and stories in it, on a constant diet of tea; of his other colleagues, of George Robey playing through the air raids, and Yvonne Arnaud playing through an accent. Most entertaining of all, Mr. Wilson tells us a story about his own Thespian efforts, when he had a small but important "thinking part"; and, one gathers, an almost silent one.

Miss Winifred Graham, that most prolific of authors, has just produced a further volume of memories, I INTRODUCE (Skeffington. 16s.), which has all the agreeable and discursive qualities of its two predecessors. Miss Graham, who lives at Hampton-on-Thames in a house built by Nell Gwyn for her son, the first Duke of St. Albans, has a fond and, indeed, a sentimental eye for the past, though I am not sure that that is not one of the charms of her particular style, as well as its unaffected naturalness.

Miss Graham lets her chapters ramble, certainly, but never into the wilderness; the byways she takes are not in wild country, but in the well-mannered, civil land of her generation and her preference.

Blake was, of course, one of the most extraordinary figures to be produced, even by such an extraordinary country as our own. His genius is now acknowledged, "aloof and solitary" but authentic, and the reprint of Miss Mona Wilson's LIFE OF WILLIAM BLAKE (Rupert Hart-Davis. 21s.) is the more welcome since it includes the new notes that are the result of research during the twenty years that have passed since its first publication.

Blake "had the gift of being happy and of being himself in any society not openly hostile or provocative," writes the author, and it is a great part of her value as an interpreter and biographer that she shows clearly how often those adverse conditions surrounded him in his lifetime. If one could read this book in company with a copy of Blake's collected poems and his drawings, then indeed one would have as nearly as possible a complete apprehension of this strange man as he was in his life and in his work

The family of Count Robert Keyserling has a history which extends over six hundred years. He himself was born and brought up, at least in his early years, in the wealth and comfort of the family estates in Lithuania. The Russian revolution, when he was still a boy, changed the family fortunes, but at first his parents thought the change only temporary, and it was not until they had moved to Vladivostok that the real nature of it became apparent to them. After that the family was scattered, and the author went from his school in Shanghai to find work in British Columbia, where he graduated at Vancouver University and started on the career of journalism there and in Europe. In the end, he decided to break with all his old ties in this hemisphere and to return to Canada, where he now holds a distinguished position in Montreal.

UNFINISHED HISTORY (Robert Hale. 12s. 6d.) is the autobiography of a serious journalist and worth reading for that reason, because although it is a personal story, it reflects the changes of thought and of regime through which the author has lived

LIFE INTERESTS (Macdonald. 12s. 6d.) is a selection of Mr. Douglas Goldring's essays on subjects as various as D. H. Lawrence, the respective charms of London and Margate, wine, the middle-class Victorian, and the delights of paddle steamers. In his preface Mr. Alec Waugh writes that: "Douglas Goldring is not a controversialist nor an assailant; he is an appreciator writing with warmth and gratitude of the things he has enjoyed," which is a true enough assessment of an uneven but entertaining volume.

WITH BEST WISHES

IT is now possible for you to buy a year's subscription to *The Sphere* to send overseas. Here is an ideal New Year present for your friends abroad. Each week your friend receives a new copy, reminding him or her throughout the year of your kind thought.

A Greetings card will be sent with the first copy if desired. Address your order to the Subscription Department, *The Sphere*, Commonwealth House, 1 New Oxford Street, London, W.C.1, giving the name and address of the person to whom the copies are to be sent, and enclosing the price of the subscription, £4.17.6

I agree entirely with the dictum that a figure who is *not* a man of genius may be more representative of his age than many greater men. Such a personage, talented but not to the point of brilliance, and unusual but not to the point of eccentricity, was the first Earl of Charlemont in the Irish peerage, who was typical of the enlightened and cultured gentleman of his day, the eighteenth century, but whose name and reputation has never excited much comment.

THE VOLUNTEER EARL (Cresset Press. 18s.) is a scholarly reconstruction of his life by Mr. Maurice James Craig, who has written with appropriate grace and restraint of a subject worthy of a biographer's skill.

LOVE IN MILDENSEE (Sampson Low. 9s. 6d.) has a really original subject for its theme, or at least, so it seems to me. Miss Naomi Royde-Smith has chosen to write of love as it might be experienced in a girls' finishing school in a town that could be Geneva or Lausanne or Dresden and that has some of the characteristics of all three of them. It is an enchanting story of no profound significance, and all the more delightful for that, since our everyday lives are overshadowed to such a degree by the painfully and even tragically significant.

You will read this novel with pleasure, and I think you will recognise that it escapes triviality

Miss Mary Dunstan, with half-a-dozen books to her credit, has an undoubted knack of choosing unusual and beautiful settings for her stories, and of creating, in those settings, tales of intrigue that build to a dramatic climax. Her new novel, HE CLIMBED ALONE (Heinemann. 9s. 6d.), has a high and remote Tyrolese village as its scene, and a group of villagers who play out a tense and complex story for all their apparent lack of worldliness. Only, in this case, I was disappointed to find that what should have been the crowning moment and, as it were, the inspiration of the whole novel had been curiously blurred.

THE TRAIN (Putnam. 9s. 6d.) has the distinction of being a Soviet novel that is not entirely stifled by political ideologies and reasoning. Vera Panova won a Stalin Prize with it when it was published a couple of years ago in Russia, as her first novel. The translation has been smoothly achieved by Eve Manning and Marie Budberg.

First of all, let it be clearly stated that THE MAY FAIR (Hodder and Stoughton. 8s. 6d.) has nothing whatever to do with London. It is a story, by Mr. John Hereford, of a traditional fair in Radnor, and it succeeds in creating an authentic atmosphere without recourse to more than a suggestion of the Welsh turn of phrase

THE EUROPEANS (Bodley Head. 7s. 6d.) is a collection of fourteen brief stories linked together subtly but definitely by their placing and by their mood. Mr. John Pudney, whose photograph looking amiable and quizzical appears on the jacket, has written his little tales without sentimentality and, on the other hand, without self-conscious "realism," and the result is commendable. But then, it seems impossible for a poet to write bad prose

BESS OF HARDWICK'S MEDICAL SERVICE

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Long before State medicine was ever envisaged, in an age when a flat rate for all the people would never have been dreamt of, the immortal Bess of Hardwick, the remarkable woman who established the Cavendish dynasty in the High Peak country of Derbyshire, founded the Buxton Bath Charity, the intention being to supply a permanent physician and levy tolls for medical aid, according to rank and wealth The suggested scale of charges was 12d. for a yeoman, £3 10s. for a duke, and £5 for an archbishop. and, in the best modern manner, there was a capitation fee for the physician. Even the most ardent protagonist of a policy of soaking the rich could hardly have done better than this. Mr. R. Grundy Heape tells this, and many other good stories, in his book BUXTON UNDER THE DUKES OF DEVONSHIRE (Robert Hale. 15s.), and the result is that he has produced a thoroughly entertaining history with no hint of obsequiousness (in the manner of that other Mr. Heap) to the august house of Cavendish, and no attempt to disguise the fact that Cavendish's have been rich gainers by their fostering of the northern spa. They have been givers too, in no small way, and few will deny that the High Peak country has had good cause in the past to bless the day when the ebullient Bess prevailed upon her husband, Sir William Cavendish, to sell his estates in Hertfordshire, Cardiganshire, Nottinghamshire and Middlesex and purchase lands in Derbyshire, "where her own kindred lived." The photographs and the drawings accompanying the book are first-rate. Some may feel that an unnecessary amount of space is devoted to the past results of the Buxton Open Lawn Tennis Tournaments. They seem to be quite out of keeping with the character and dignity of the book.

In the years between the wars the Australian grain trade was the last steady trade left to the few surviving square-rigged ships, and their race homeward with new season's grain was really the last "kick" of romantic sail, as witness the exploits of Ruben de Cloux, who in 1933 completed an eighty-three-day run from Port Broughton to Falmouth, storming round the Horn less than a month out from Australia. To-day the grain race is no more, and only a few of the stately old full-riggers wander home through the trades, but interest in them will never die. In THE ROMANCE OF THE CLIPPER SHIPS (Hennel Locke. 18s.), the late Basil Lubbock has recorded the histories of some of the more celebrated windjammers, narrating their mishaps and their high performances, and queen of them all, of course, is the *Cutty Sark*, that veteran of the Australian trade which to-day appears as spick and span at her Greenhithe moorings as ever she did in the days of her glory. Fifteen colour-plates by J. Spurling make this a most attractive volume for all lovers of the sea

Ronald Caston has an enviable reputation as a travel writer, but his latest effort, THIS OUR LONDON (A. and C. Black. 15s.), is curiously uneven. Chelsea he dismisses in a scornful sentence, Battersea, which has many a picturesque old corner, gets scant reference; but there is praise for Chiswick Mall and Strand on the Green. Mr. Caston's subject is too large for the paper allowance

Alasdair Alpin MacGregor's SOMEWHERE IN SCOTLAND, first published a decade ago, now makes a welcome reappearance (Robert Hale. 15s.). This is a revised and amplified edition, and one assured of a great welcome, for Mr. MacGregor is a travel writer with a sense of history and a fine command of English.

Of special interest to the ballet-lover is STUDIES OF DANCERS (Home and Van Thal. 42s.), a new volume by Gordon Anthony. The colour photography is inclined to be too colourful, and some may prefer the studies in monochrome. Mr. Anthony has an undoubted gift for bringing out the personality of his subjects and the very essence of the roles in which they are portrayed

For the specialist is THE COMPLETE FIGURE-SKATER (Methuen and Co. 18s.), by T. D. Richardson. Mr. Richardson is an expert judge, and in no small measure has brought figure-skating to perfection in this country

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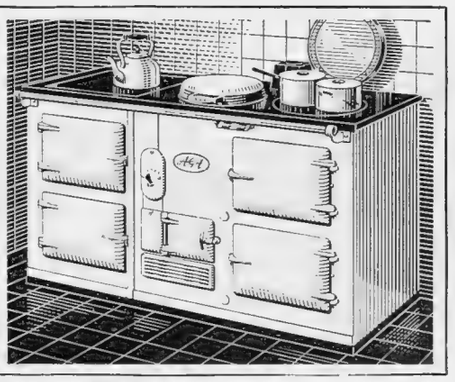

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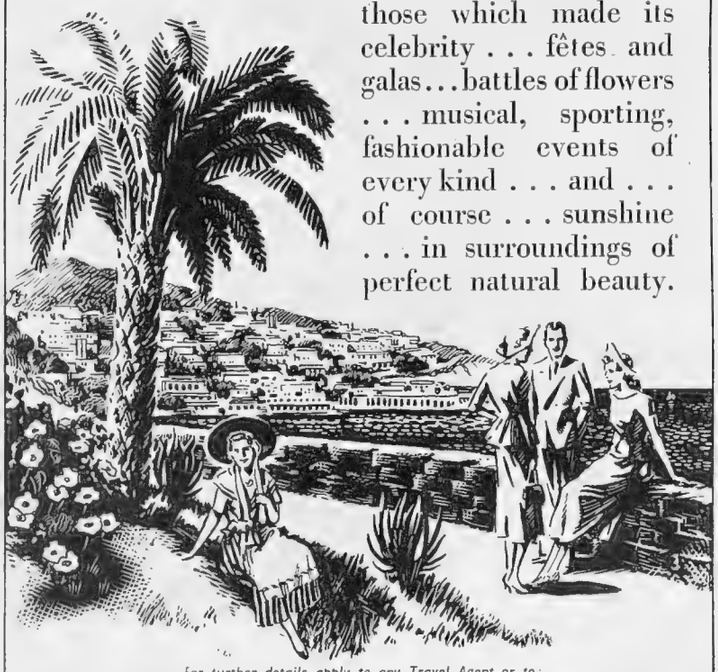

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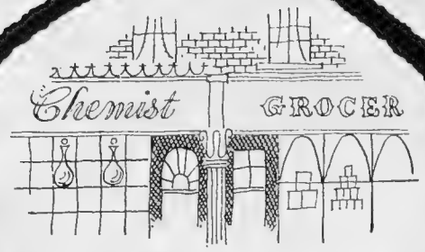

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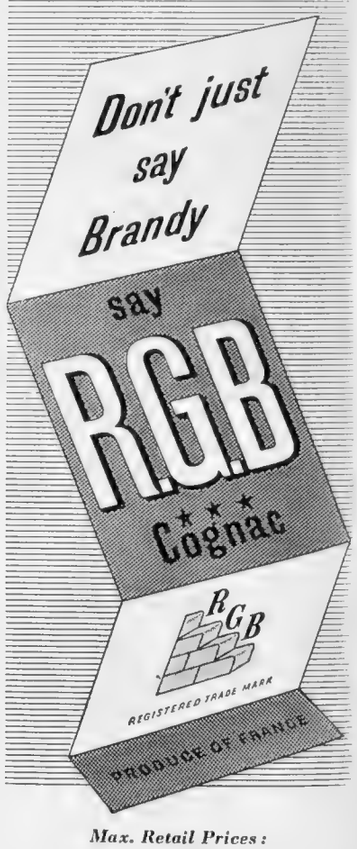

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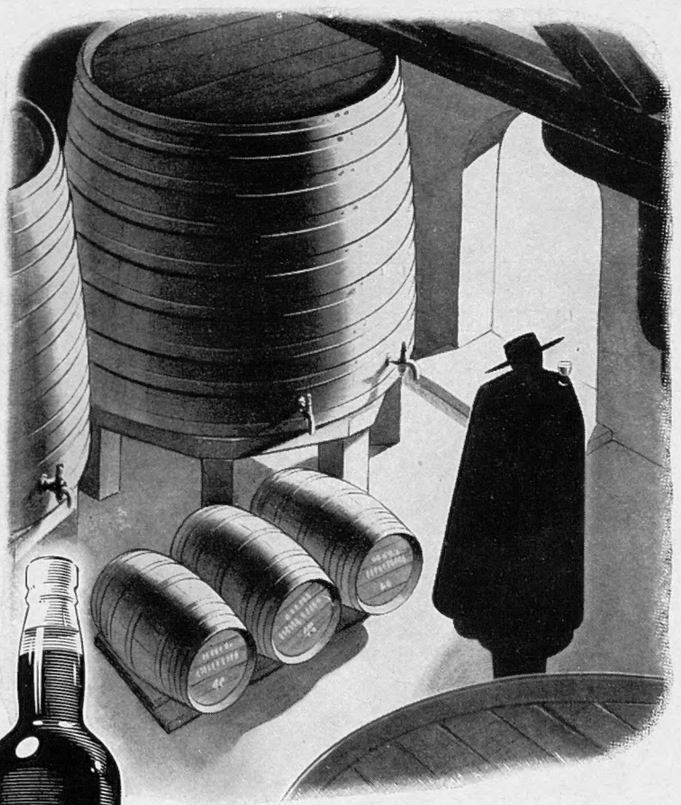

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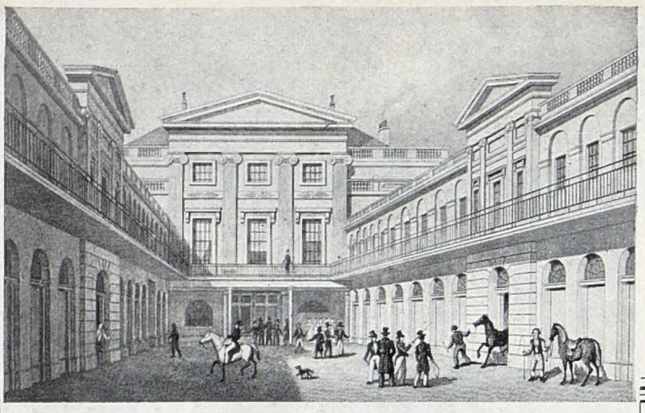

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